



Connecticut Guardian



Volume 1 Number 2

HARTFORD, CT

April 2000

TAG unveils "Bold Move"

By Maj. John R. Whitford
State Public Affairs Officer

At the sixth Annual National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the adjutant general, presented his vision of where the Connecticut National Guard will be in the next century.

In keeping with the Army's Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki's vision of people, readiness and transformation, Cugno presented the same for Connecticut. Shinseki's concept for a mobile Army is receiving favorable reviews. Shinseki envisions placing a combat brigade anywhere in the world in 96 hours after lift off, a warfighting division in place in 120 hours and five divisions in 30 days. He wants to develop the Army into a more agile force that can move easily from stability and support operations to warfighting.

Cugno sees this move as a bold one for Connecticut. "We are big business. We are the 93rd revenue producer in the state," said Cugno. "In 1955 we had 12,000 members in the Connecticut National Guard. Today we have just over 4,000 members. The cost to us has been numbers."

The Guard of the future will transition the 2nd Battalion, 192nd Field Artillery out of state by the year 2005. The Guard will move from 4,128 members to 4,292 members. With the field artillery transitioning out, Connecticut will be getting another brigadier general (O-7) position, a chemical brigade, a chemical battalion, two chemical companies, a military police (MP) law and order detachment, an MP guard company, two MP military working dog (MWD) teams, a press camp headquarters, a transportation company and two engineer fire fighting teams.

"This move creates a new career progression from lieutenant to general officer," said Cugno. "It also creates positions for females, a greater recruiting base, the MP's will have a greater tie to the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) designation currently being addressed in our state legislation plan and Counter Drug dog teams."

In the current configuration, this could not happen. Today, Connecticut National Guard has 4128 members. What was initially planned was for the Connecticut Guard to drop to 3903 members with significant cuts to majors, captains, first sergeants and sergeants major limiting progression and reducing the Connecticut National Guard to a "small state."

With this in mind, Cugno and Maj. Shawn Karvelis, the force integration officer, went to work on fixing this dilemma. The future of this transformation allows for

opportunity for leader development and career development. This creation of the new Guard for the 21st century keeps Connecticut as a medium state with an additional 164 slots. (See center spread for further information on the Connecticut National Guard of the future)

There will be a scheduled officers call, Sergeants Major call and future breakfasts with the boss, for the adjutant general to further inform everyone on this "Bold Move."

"This move will allow the Connecticut National Guard to be agile, versatile, and sustainable," said Cugno. "This vision is to ensure that our state continues to be ready; prepared for today, planning for tomorrow, and poised for the future."

65th Press Camp deployed Unit heads to Bosnia

Story by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski,
65th PCH

Photos by Spc. Marion Rosado,
65th PCH

Twenty members of the 65th Press Camp Headquarters marched from the operations building across the tarmac at Quonset State Airport, as their colleagues and loved one looked on, applauded and saluted. The walk to the C-130, on this cold, damp, April Sunday, was a little more than 100 yards.

But, it must have seemed a lot longer.

The aircraft took them on a flight expected to last several hours, beginning a journey expected to last nearly nine months, in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. After about a week at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the unit is due to fly to Germany. From there a small detachment will head to Taszar, Hungary, while the bulk of the unit will deploy to Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia.

The unit, which features elements in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was activated on April 6th. But like their march to the C-130 on April 9th, the journey has been much longer.

"We took care of a lot of required training and briefings at annual training," said Sgt. Maj. Dominic DiNatale, referring to a three-week training period completed at Devens, Massachusetts, shortly before the activation date. The unit trained in Army tasks, both common and mission-specific, according to

DiNatale, the ranking noncommissioned officer with the 65th. "(At Ft. Benning) we'll get more in-country briefings, and lanes training for theatre-specific tasks, such as mine-probing... and (U.S. Army Europe) driver training."

The larger contingent of the 65th will run the Coalition Press Information Center at Eagle Base, and will also publish "The Talon," a full-color publication for the soldiers stationed in the area. Other public affairs missions are expected, and the PCH will provide command and control for the 102nd Mobile Public Affairs

Detachment, which consists of reserve-component soldiers from Louisiana and Mississippi. Three of the four Connecticut soldiers in the 65th will work at Eagle Base.

Maj. Sherman McGrew, of Harwinton, is the lone Connecticut soldier deploying to Taszar, where he will serve as public affairs officer for the National Support Element for Operation Joint Forge. He and three other members of the unit will also be responsible for the publication of "The Endeavor," supporting U.S. troops in Hungary.

"We'll split our time between Taszar and Tuzla," McGrew said.

In addition to public affairs of officers, photojournalists, broadcasters, the PCH includes administrative support specialists. Missions include running press information centers, gathering news and preparing print



Maj. Sherman R. McGrew shares a final moment with his family before deploying to Bosnia.

Continued on page 20

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

At the recent National Guard Association of Connecticut Annual Conference, I announced major force structure changes for the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG). "Bold Move", as the plan is known, will transform the CTARNG and provide the state with an ideal, balanced force structure for the future. Under the Bold Move initiative, we will be in position for the evolving missions of the National Guard and our ability to execute our state mission will improve. The Bold Move actions will begin in fiscal year 2002, and will be complete in fiscal year 2006.

The primary motivation for the Bold Move plan has to do with people and opportunity. Throughout this transition, you, the soldiers of the CTARNG, will be my top priority. Yes, there will be turbulence, but I assure you - you, your family and your valuable time will be minimally impacted, and in the end, the transitions should be seamless. When Bold Move is complete, soldiers will not lose jobs, our force structure will increase and opportunities for career advancement will expand for all soldiers.

Throughout this transition, I will need your support. If you and your unit are impacted by Bold Move, I know you will continue your fine, dedicated and professional service. At the appropriate time, you will be mentored and counseled, and I will do my best to localize any new MOS training to alleviate any time away from your families and civilian jobs.

Many of you will ask, "Why the big change and at what cost to our present structure?" The Army and the Army National Guard are in the

midst of massive force structure changes, due in part to the reorganization of the eight Army National Guard combat divisions throughout the United States. The National Guard as a whole, while continuing to maintain our federal mission and combat role, is being tasked with such emerging Homeland Defense missions as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), domestic terrorism, counter drug operations, national missile defense and information warfare.

By taking the initiative and moving out boldly, we have secured the most suitable force structure mix for the CTARNG - a force structure that has high relevance for the next 25 years.

Unfortunately, to make this work, we have to give up the 192nd Field Artillery. This was not a decision arrived at lightly considering the proud tradition of the field artillery in Connecticut. Though this weighed heavily on my mind, the advantages of giving up the artillery far outweighed the disadvantages.

In return for this heavy sacrifice, Connecticut will gain a chemical brigade headquarters commanded by a brigadier general, a chemical police company, two military police dog teams, a press camp headquarters commanded by a lieutenant colonel, a transportation company and two engineer fire fighting teams.

Bold Move will allow Connecticut to remain above 4,000 soldiers, thus maintaining our status as a medium state. Without this plan, we would drop below 4,000 soldiers, receive a "small" state status and loose money, resources, equipment, M-day opportunities and full-time positions. This was, and is, unacceptable.



With the implementation of this plan, all units in Connecticut except the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry will be open to females, offering more upward mobility than previously afforded these valuable soldiers. In addition, all soldiers will now be able to take advantage of more opportunities for advancement than before.

In summary, Bold Move provides Connecticut with relevant structure for our federal mission; expands our capabilities to execute our domestic mission; provides expanded career opportunities for all soldiers, especially females, and increases our CTARNG strength, thus protecting jobs and resources. Rarely do states get all that they desire for force structure, but I am ecstatic that we are so close. A job well done by my staff.

I know there will be many questions as this plan is put into action. Over the next few months, I will discuss various aspects of Bold Move in greater detail. In the meantime, take a close look at the charts in the center spread of this issue. If you have questions, e-mail them to the editor of the Connecticut Guardian at debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil no later than May 15 and I will answer as many as possible in the June issue.

ENLISTED UPDATE

By State
Command
Sgt. Maj.
Stephen L.
Primett



The fourth
year of the
Noncom-
missioned

Officer Promotion System (NCOPS), formerly known as STPA (Select, Train, Promote, Assign) is under way. The boards for master sergeant/first sergeant and sergeant major have been completed and the results published. All other boards are complete and the results have been published.

All first sergeants should have a copy of the promotion lists by the first drill after board results are announced. Soldiers that are at the top of the list should be counseled and encouraged to posture themselves for success, beginning with the NCO Education System (NCOES) schools appropriate to their current grade. If these soldiers have failed the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), weight standards or are currently not being considered because of an adverse action pending should have their records flagged and GI should be notified.

GI staff will annotate on the promotion lists those soldiers under flagging action in order to cut down on the number of phone calls erroneously being made to soldiers not eligible for promotion. Soldiers who bring themselves back up to standards will have the flags removed from their files and will once again be considered for promotions based on their standings on the list.

All soldiers contacted for promotion want to know how soon that will happen. If they have met all the NCOES requirements, they are promoted on the same order moving them to their new assignment. If they don't meet the NCOES requirements, they're required to complete the courses necessary for their promotion. Some Basic NCO and Advanced NCO courses have several requirements, most notably that the soldier is eligible for promotion after they complete phase one, but need to complete phase two within two years, or lose the promotion.

This has become a problem. Soldiers need to work through their chain of command and get enrolled in Phase II as soon as possible after completing Phase I. If a soldier is not loaded on the Army Training Requirement and Resources System (ATRRS) within two years of

completion of Phase I, he or she will be reduced to their former grade. The only exceptions to this requirement are if there is no school conducted or no seats available in any of the course during the two years.. The only way to track whether a soldier is enrolled or not is through ATRRS using the soldiers' social security number. Failed physical fitness tests and not meeting the weight standards are not valid exceptions.

The most often heard comment I hear from young soldiers is "I need PLDC (Primary Leadership Development Course) but I can only go in the summer." Soldiers need to understand that every National Guard unit in the country has that same problem. There are only so many slots in each course available to Connecticut. If a soldier is selected for promotion to sergeant and needs PLDC, he or she should be encouraged to take the first available school date.

First sergeants should scrub their list at least once a month to see what soldiers the unit could be losing to another unit and which ones they could be gaining. If the leadership in each unit does its part in preparing our soldiers for success, it won't matter who we lose or gain; he or she will be a well-trained and ready soldier.

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Deadline for submissions is
the first Friday of the
month prior to the month of
publication.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS AGAINST TERRORISM:

How Ready Are We?

Story and Photos
By Maj. John Whitford
State Public Affairs Officer

The Connecticut National Guard, the Office of Emergency Management and the City of Bridgeport sponsored a terrorism tabletop exercise at the Trumbull Marriott in Stratford on March 24, 2000. A follow on Congressional Hearing was conducted by the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations at the Stratford Armory on Monday 27, 2000 chaired by Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT-4).

The four hour interactive Chemical/Hazardous Materials tabletop exercise was divided into three situation briefings, each providing new, ever-expanding consequences as a result of several public health emergencies in an around the city of Bridgeport.

The first situation confronted the participants with challenges of assessing and responding to a sudden, unexplained explosion on an incoming Amtrak train from New York.

The second situation focused on stresses to the area hospital systems while introducing new and unusual symptoms in few patients.

The third situation found hundreds of patients exhibiting these same symptoms in different areas of the state leading authorities to suspect a chemical terrorist incident.

All of the participants were broken down by functional areas of expertise. Although representing a variety of different local, state, federal, and private agencies, all had to work together as a team (table) to provide the best support to the Incident Commander and local officials. Interaction from the groups promoted constant communication on how to best integrate response activities. Facilitators for each group guided and mediated group discussions.

The exercise addressed both operational and policy-level responses to a terrorism emergency in the city of Bridgeport. The

process and decision-making were more important than minute details. The emphasis was on developing the best possible response through problem identification, coordination and the integration of capabilities, innovation and resolution.

There was no "school solution." All participants took part in an After Action Review/Hot Wash that helped capture lessons learned.

"Through this exercise we will assess how to improve interagency cooperation to better

programs on local and state primary responders. "Federal programs should help empower local police, fire and emergency personnel to meet the threat of terrorism, then get out of the way and let them do their job," said Shays.

The Congressional Hearing on Monday, March 27, 2000 was called to order by Shays with an exercise overview and lessons learned by John T. Wiltse, Director of Connecticut's Office of Emergency Management and Col. (Ret.) David Gavigan, facilitator of the tabletop exercise.

"Federal programs should help empower local police, fire and emergency personnel to meet the threat of terrorism, then get out of the way and let them do their job."

Congressman
Christopher Shays
(R-Conn)

While offering testimony, Cugno stated that participants clearly learned from the Park City Terrorism Exercise that there is insufficient detection, decontamination, communications and personal protection equipment on the front lines

"In addition to insufficient resources, we are certainly confusing local officials with too many agencies with too many roles. Terrorism incident recovery must remain based on the federal response plan and utilize established emergency management channels to move assistance to municipalities. This is no time to scrap a well-known and responsive system," said Cugno.

He went on to testify about the Governor's concern for the lack of an assigned Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team (CST) for the state of Connecticut. These teams are National Guard assets intended to be quickly deployed to technically advise the on-site incident commander and provide on-site laboratory analysis. Twenty-seven teams have been allocated to date. Connecticut did not receive authorization for a team.

"It is the position of Gov. John Rowland, the Adjutant General's Association of the United States, the National Guard Association of the United States, and myself, the adjutant general of the state of Connecticut, that a WMD Civil Support Team be authorized and funded for each state to help support the first responder community," concluded Cugno.

"Domestic Preparedness Against Terrorism: How Ready Are We?" All exercise participants unanimously agreed that more exercises like this are needed to improve our readiness.



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, and Dr. Henry Lee, Commissioner of Public Safety, testify before a Congressional subcommittee on weapons of mass destruction.



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno confers with John Wiltse, Director, Office of Emergency Management (l), and Congressman Christopher Shays (r).

prepare our communities for a potential terrorism incident." said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's adjutant general and top emergency management official.

The subcommittee, chaired by Shays, explored the impact of federal domestic preparedness training and equipment

The subcommittee requested representatives from the city of Bridgeport, state agencies and key federal agencies to testify. This was broken down into three panels. The first panel consisted of all the local officials. The second panel consisted of all the state officials, including Cugno, and the third panel consisted of all federal officials who participated in the exercise.

"This is no time to scrap a well-known and responsive system."

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno



Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. (CH)
David Feyrer

The religious holy days celebrated in the spring, Easter for Christians and Passover for Jews, both highlight an essential focus of these religious traditions - freedom.

Easter, and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus..the freedom from the bounds of human existence..form a powerful belief for Christian people.

For the Jews, the Passover and freedom gained for the Israelite people from the bondage of the Egyptians, is likewise a powerful belief for Jews.

Freedom is a key element of our major

belief systems and, as we well know, the United States and its Constitution focuses on the ideals of individual freedom.

It is our task as members of the Armed Forces of the United States to protect and defend these freedoms not only in this country, but also occasionally around the world. This will only increase as we see new missions of peace keeping and peace making come to the fore.

We need to remember, as we are called to these missions, that the gifts we have been given as citizens of the United States, the gift of freedom, the same freedom we celebrate in our religious celebrations this spring, are a vital part of our heritage.

Thus, when we defend political freedom, we in many ways defend religious freedom at the same time. In my mind, there is no more precious freedom.

The Lamp

By: First Sgt. John Lankford
169th Leadership Regiment

The "Help Wanted" sign is out at the 169th Leadership Regiment at Camp Rowland. This summer, it's likely that more than three hundred of ficer candidates from eight states will arrive for two weeks of phase one training. To support this effort, the regiment recruits soldiers from other units to drive vehicles, provide medical services, operate radios, etc.

"We get a lot of soldiers who aren't able to go to annual training (AT) with their own units," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Bussher, the regiment's training noncommissioned officer (NCO). "While we look for volunteers from certain military occupational specialties (MOSs), such as medics and administrative specialists, we usually find something to do for everyone who wants to join us."

Phase one training for the candidates is a rigorous, two-week program of entry-level

military instruction for the aspiring of ficers. Subjects covered include principles of leadership, the history and traditions of the U.S. Army, and how to conduct training in units. The first of the two weeks is primarily spent in a classroom setting, while the second is at the Stone's Ranch training area covering field subjects such as basic tactics and land navigation.

The regiment supports this training with all the usual battalion-level activities such as supply, food service, transportation and medical services. Support personnel get a look into the training of future leaders and gain training themselves in a variety of useful subjects.

The regiment's AT this year is July 15 to July 29, with the ability to shift the 15 days (ADSW) to a week earlier or later. If you're in need of an annual training opportunity, the 169th will make every effort to incorporate you into their plans. Advise your leadership, using your chain of command, if this applies to you - the point of contact is Sgt. 1st Class Bussher at (860) 691-6083.

No person was ever honored for what they received:
Honor has been the reward for what they gave -
Unknown

Diversity Dialogue

STAGES OF ACHIEVING AN INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION

By Senior Master Sgt. Tony Palladino
Headquarters, Connecticut Air National Guard
State Human Resources Advisor
SOURCE: <http://www.diversityintl.com>

Many organizations spend a lot of money on intensive employee diversity training without noticing any significant organizational change. An administrator knows that organizational change is needed to take advantage of diversity, but their efforts are hindered because they are unprepared for the challenges of bringing about the change. Below is a list of things managers should know about the stages of achieving diversity and inclusion in order to overcome the usual pitfalls.

Exclusive Club: The primary view promoted in this type of organization is that only those who fit into traditional norms and values will succeed. Managers consciously and proudly promote sameness. Little room exists for differences. A female administrator will probably have to "out male" her male colleagues to feel accepted. The Exclusive Club organization should develop internal programs that widen the range of acceptable behaviors for existing employees before attempting to include people who are different.

Passive Club: This type of organization is similar to the Exclusive Club with the difference being that administrators unconsciously promote sameness. They believe that they welcome differences. The problem is that they are unaware of how their tradition promotes sameness. One symptom is that a lot of qualified minorities are interviewed for available positions with little success in recruiting them. The intervention method is the same as for that of the Exclusive Club.

Symbolic Difference "Pioneers": The organization is open to differences in appearance among employees, but not in values, beliefs, and behaviors. Gender blindness and color blindness are used to describe how the organization views differences. A few "token" employees who are different in appearance are hired to show openness. They either leave shortly for a new organization or must be fired for lacking the necessary qualities. This organization is better off minimizing the isolation of existing employees who show interest in achieving diversity. Other employees should be made aware of the obstacles that limit or prevent the organization from achieving full inclusion.

Critical Mass: When minorities represent 15 to 25 percent of the employee population,

a critical mass is in place. Their growth is evidence of a transition point in the organization represented by recognizable changes in points of view and including new ideas. Intervention includes leadership support, rewriting policies, and instituting inclusion incentive plans. **Acceptance:** Employees are seen as belonging to several identity groups and their differences are considered added-value. The organization's focus is no longer on making a business case for diversity. It now experiences the payoffs and successes of promoting and managing diversity. Interventions include redefining the values and beliefs about diversity to align their practices with inclusion values. The organization also takes advantage of opportunities to show employees how to model diversity and inclusion.

Inclusive Organization: The high performing organization actively includes and utilizes the wide range of skills and perspectives of its identity groups. The organizations is always geared for and committed to constant change and improvement. Interventions include training for the constant use of clear, direct, and authentic communication in a diverse organization. Management needs to work toward making certain that processes are in place that promote the voices of inclusion of each individual, team, partnership, and group.

In summary, diversity and inclusion is achieved within an organization when differences are valued and not consciously excluded.



Armed Forces Day Luncheon

The men and women of the Connecticut Air National Guard are proud to sponsor the 50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day luncheon. This year's celebration will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 19 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, Conn. The featured speaker for the event is Maj. Gen. Irene Trowell Harris, the Air National Guard Assistant Director for Human Resource Readiness.

The menu for the luncheon includes Chicken a la Kathryn, roast beef, penne pasta, whipped potatoes, green beans and dessert.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For additional information, contact Maj. John Whitford (524-4857), Master Sgt. Kris Toro (548-3221), Staff Sgt. Carrie Allen (524-4955) or stop by the ESSO or Public Affairs offices at the Hartford armory.

Fighter Wing trains at Patrick

By Chief Master Sgt. Fran Macsata
103rd Fighter Wing, CTANG

The 103rd Fighter Wing (FW) of the Connecticut Air National Guard deployed recently to Patrick Air Force Base (AFB), Florida to hone their combat skills. The 180-Connecticut guardsmen loaded aboard two KC-135 and a C-130 aircraft in January for two weeks of training. Before climbing aboard the transport aircraft, the maintenance staff prepared and launched the units A-10A aircraft in the frigid cold of Connecticut.

The unit dropped over 500 bombs, 300 rockets and shot 9000 rounds from the 30 millimeter gun.

The 103rd FW pilots flew the ten A-10 close air support aircraft to Florida, stopping once for fuel along the way. The A-10's, although capable of air refueling, stopped so that the same personnel who launched the aircraft in Connecticut could park them at Patrick AFB. The refueling stop was completed allowing time for the support aircraft to arrive at Patrick before the A-10's. The detachment commander, Maj. Thomas Powers, to reduce the impact on the unit's non-deploying personnel, developed this highly effective plan.

The overall goal of this training was to practice the unit's ability to deploy and operate from a remote base in the combat search and rescue (CSAR) role at night. This mission is used to locate, protect and recover an aircrew when the aircraft is downed in unfriendly territory, such as the case of the F117 crewmember in Kosovo. The A-10 aircraft would be dispatched in short order to eliminate any hostile threat to the pilot and crew. This highly maneuverable aircraft is designed around the 30-millimeter gattling gun, but is very capable of carrying other weapons as well.

Much of the flying was done at night. The pilots were using the night vision goggles, replicating the actual conditions as closely as possible. The Logistics Group was responsible for the maintenance of the ten aircraft as well as building the ordnance, and getting it to the proper aircraft on time. The workday started around 11:00 am and lasted until the last aircraft returned and was prepared for the next days flying. Each day, eight aircraft took-off from Patrick loaded with rockets, bombs, illuminating flares and bullets headed for the range in Avon Park Florida. Here the crews

used high intensity flares to light up the night sky and marked the target area with 2.75 rockets, so other A-10 crews could strafe or bomb as directed from the army personnel already on the ground.

"We are really excited about this training," said Powers. "We can actually sit down and discuss face to face the results with all of the players involved."

The 103rd Logistics group had the monumental task of keeping the aircraft flying throughout this 15-day training exercise. The maintenance effort, headed by Capt. James Quagliaroli, was an efficient team of craftsmen from across the state.

"It takes highly motivated and qualified people working long hours to keep the aging jets flying," said Quagliaroli.

"Without the support from everyone involved we could not have accomplished this effective training event. This is a major commitment of all concerned," said Capt. Chenelle, the unit's maintenance officer. "Keeping these jets flying is not easy. We were able to bring only a limited number of spare parts and you cannot prepare for all associated aircraft problems."

Again the unit maintenance personnel used their keen knowledge and skills to maintain the aircraft in a high ready state. Supply personnel used computer systems and spent hours on the phone hunting down the repair parts from all over the country.



This training exercise was a great event for everyone involved. As a unit they dropped over 500 bombs, 300 rockets and shot 9000 rounds for the 30millimeter gun. The missions were great practice for the pilots and keeping them flying was great training for the maintenance folks. This first trip of the new century was a huge success. This success is just one more example of the 103rd Fighter Wing's ability to deploy and operate in a remote area.

Never give nor take
an excuse—
Florence Nightingale

You can't help others if you can't help yourself first...

Story and Photos By
Capt. Scott Wilsen
CTANG Public Affairs Office

Indian summers are welcome occurrences in New England, especially if you are a soldier from the Connecticut Army National Guard participating in field training.

On a recent fall day, the Headquarters Support Company (HSC) of the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion (ASMB) found itself the benefactor of such a phenomenon. During the warm autumn

of the soldiers as they donned their M40 protective masks. Others, caught unprepared, were slower to don their masks, and many struggled with the task in their haste to complete it. Staff Sgt. Blaine Boxwell, the Battalion NBC NCO and leader of the NBC portion of training, surveyed the chaotic scene through the plastic eyepieces of his mask with a satisfied grin that was hidden to all. The first lesson of this training was complete.

During the NBC portion of the training, soldiers learned and practiced the skills necessary to sustain themselves in a



A soldier helps his buddy don his protective mask during recent training conducted by the 118th Medical Battalion at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation.

morning, members of the battalion assembled in a wooded training area at the heart of Stone's Ranch, erecting tents, shelters, and a field kitchen in preparation for the following two days of training.

Having read the training schedule, the soldiers knew they would receive training on Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) tasks, and in night land navigation skills. They also knew that on the second day they would form teams and compete against each other on the grueling confidence course, a test of physical endurance as well as a catalyst for team building. Though this knowledge was thoroughly understood by all the HSC soldiers, the true lessons of the weekend were yet to evolve.

After completion of setup and training preparations, the soldiers gathered for a briefing by their newly appointed commander, Maj. Kevin McMahon, over a lunch of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE). After delivery of his command philosophy to his soldiers, Maj. McMahon informed them that they had twenty minutes until training began. Several minutes later, as the soldiers took the opportunity for a brief period of relaxation, purple smoke began to fill the air of the barren woods.

"Gas! Gas! Gas!" was sounded by several

contaminated environment, so that they in turn could perform their personal treatment and transport missions.

"We must have the ability to survive in order to help others," noted Pfc. Cheyenne Hillman, a patient administrator from the HSC. Tasks trained included Protect Self from NBC Contamination, Protect Self from Chemical/Biological Agent with the M40 Mask, Decontaminate Self and Personal Equipment, and Prepare and Submit an NBC 1 Report.

The night land navigation portion of the training ensured that soldiers of the HSC were able to find their way in the dark, a task especially critical to the ambulatory platoon, which must transport casualties between various aid areas. It also gave the soldiers experience using night-vision goggles and global positioning system (GPS) devices.

Finally, the confidence course allowed a personal assessment of each soldiers' physical fitness, and allowed the members of each platoon to strengthen the bonds of teamwork that are so important to winning on the battlefield. It also aided in developing a competitive edge, with the winning team being exempt from post-training weapons cleaning.

The Winning Ways of the Soldier of the Year

By: Capt. Scott Wilson
CTANG Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Alexander R. Schmidt doesn't like to lose. When asked how he accomplished winning Soldier of the Year for the Connecticut Army National Guard, his answer was simple. "I don't like to lose. Sgt. 1st Class (Joseph) Allsop encouraged me to compete, and after I made the decision to do it, I couldn't let myself lose." Schmidt endured several months of boards before reaching the state level, and now he is looking forward to Atlanta and the First Army Soldier of the Year Board.

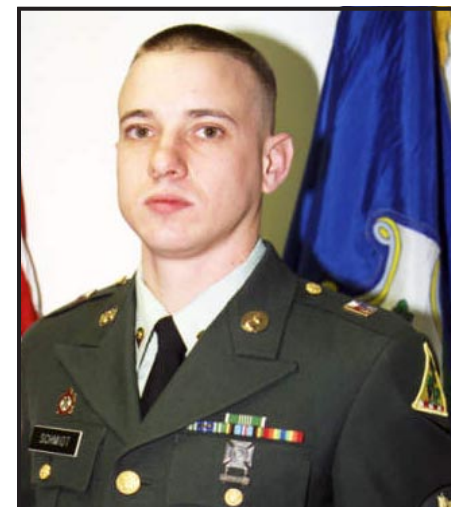
Schmidt, an ammunition supply specialist with the supply and services section of the 143rd Area Support Group (ASG), maintains the drive of a winner in his military, civilian, and family life. As a detective for the Navy Exchange, he is responsible for investigating thefts, shoplifting, and check fraud, and performing audits. He also serves as a part-time postal worker.

"I do a lot of what I do for my family," stated the father of two. He credits his wife, Sue Ann, and sons, Kevin and Zachery, with much of his success. "My wife really helped me with preparation for the board. She would take time and quiz me at night, and that really helped. My family is always very supportive of what I do." In what little free time he has, Schmidt enjoys spending time with his family at the beach and reading.

Schmidt, a native of Groton and a graduate of Robert F. Fitch High School, comes from a Navy family. His father and brother were both submariners, and his great-grandfather worked in naval aviation in World War II. "There is a little friendly rivalry, so this will be fun to share with them," he joked.

Schmidt also credits his active duty service with his board success. He served for three years as an ammunition supply specialist with the 24th Ordnance Company at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. During that time, he experienced a lot of "field" time, and deployed for five months to Kuwait as part of Operation DESERT THUNDER. "That was hard, but I really learned a lot," he commented. He also took advantage of his spare time to amass 300 credit hours via Army correspondence courses, and hopes in the future to put those credits to good use by pursuing a bachelor's degree in either environmental conservation or business administration.

"The board was really hard," he said when asked about the experience. "The questions Sgt. Maj. (Ray) Hooks asked were especially hard, but I have to thank Sgt. 1st Class Allsop, Sgt. 1st Class (Alan) Boudreau, and Master Sgt. (William) Kittle for helping me prepare and supporting me. Sgt. 1st Class Allsop helped me calm my nerves by telling me jokes before the board, and that helped a lot, too."



By Maj. Richard D. Erdmann
103rd Air Control Squadron, CTANG

Key is Airman of the Year



Senior Airman Ryan N. Key is a Satellite and Wideband Communications Apprentice, assigned to the 103rd Air Control Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, (CTANG) Orange, Conn. Born in New London, in 1979, Key attended elementary school in New London and middle school in Gales Ferry.

While in middle school, he developed an interest in aviation and joined the aviation and model rocket clubs, eventually becoming president of both. In 1992, Key spent part of his eighth grade school year in France participating in a foreign language program.

He attended Ledyard High School, becoming involved in the multicultural, aviation, and American Field Service clubs. Additionally, he competed in varsity track & field and cross-country, making it to the state championships in both disciplines.

During his junior and senior years, Key participated in a co-operative program as a purchasing requisition agent for Dow Chemical. Upon graduation from high school in 1997, he received the Connecticut Certified Public Accountants' Award and the Roger Sherman Humanitarian Award for his active participation in the Dow Chemical co-operative program.

Key entered military service as a member of the CTANG in 1998, completing basic training in Texas, and Satellite and Wideband Communications technical school in Georgia. In addition, Key has volunteered for numerous missions supporting the United States Army Signal Corps throughout the state of Connecticut. He played a key role in the successful deployment of the Theatre Missile Defense system, thus demonstrating the viability of transmitting a remote radar picture via satellite.

A member of the Civil Air Patrol, Key is pursuing an aerospace education. He completed the Aviation Ground School at the University of Connecticut and has since logged four hours flying toward his student pilot's license. He is a participant of the Flight Exploration Program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Key is actively involved with his community as exemplified by his volunteering at the soup kitchen and taking part in the Green-up Clean-up program, cleaning up a neighborhood, both in New London. Key is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Management for Engineering and Manufacturing at the University of Connecticut and volunteers his time at the African American Cultural Center and at the on-campus radio station, WHUS.

Air Guard NCO of the Year Proud to Serve

By MAJ Whit Edmonds
103rd Logistics Support Flight, CTANG

"I'm honored and humbled to be selected as the Connecticut Air National Guard (CTANG) Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year," said Tech. Sgt. James S. Shewokis upon learning he had been chosen to represent the Connecticut Air National Guard in this year's nation-wide competition. "It's especially awesome to me knowing I will also be representing the best A-10 unit in the Air Force".

Shewokis is currently assigned as an Aircraft Mechanic Crew Chief with the 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, CTANG. The 36-year-old native of Hartford entered into military service as a member of the CTANG immediately upon graduation from East Hartford High School in 1983. Following basic training, he initially trained as an aircraft fuels system mechanic. In 1986, he came on board full time as an aircraft mechanic with the 103rd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the Bradley Air National Guard Base. He later transferred to the pneumatics section where he served until being appointed as an A-10 aircraft crew chief in 1991.

Shewokis has deployed extensively in support of the 103rd Fighter Wing. He has deployed to Panama for Operation Coronet Cove, three times to Aviano, Italy in support UN and NATO forces in Bosnia during Operations Deny Flight and Decisive Endeavor, and he was a member of the Wing team that participated in the Air Force wide Gunsmoke competition. While in Kuwait, he was the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the alert crew, on 24-hour call for 30 days.

In May 1994 Shewokis married the former Deanise Bush of Vernon, Conn. He and Deanise are both active in the CTANG Family Support organization. His other activities include restoring antique automobiles and tractors, running and military history. He is a member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, American Legion, National Guard Association of Connecticut and the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Graduates Association.

Shewokis is the unit career advisor for the 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron. He admits, "I really like talking to the other members of the unit about what it means to me to be in the Air Guard. It feels great when I'm able to convince someone the best thing they can do is serve their country. I truly believe in the Air Guard. We are second to none!"



NCO of the Year Meets His Own Challenge

By: Capt. Scott W. Wilson
CTANG Public Affairs Office

"This was a chance to challenge myself," said Sgt. David W. Schappa after he was named the Connecticut Army National Guard's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. "A couple of those questions really took me off guard, and I had to overcome a lot of nervousness," he continued. However, his efforts and study paid off, and he met his own challenge.

Schappa, an avionics radar technician in the 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD), is used to studying. An expert in a highly technical field, he has endured countless hours of technical training for both his military and civilian jobs. Schappa entered into active duty service with the Army in 1994 after graduating from Jonathan Law High School, becoming a Patriot Missile operator and mechanic. His travels took him to Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea, and then to the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, where he performed duties in the research and development field.

A native of New Haven, Schappa then returned home to Connecticut and joined the Army National Guard in 1998. His civilian employment is with the Cardio Pulmonary Corporation, where he is an electronics test technician, specializing in the testing, troubleshooting, and repair of ventilators.

Commenting on how he decided to compete in the grueling, months long board cycle, Schappa said, "Sgt. 1st Class Danielle Lucas (the avionics maintenance supervisor) really encouraged me to compete. After that, it became a personal challenge. I didn't know I'd make it this far."

To prepare for the boards, Schappa said he did "lots of cramming," but also commented, "I've lived this stuff on active duty, and evidently I retained some of it." He also maintained a schedule of weekly study sessions that helped him to prepare for success.

Schappa's military service continues a family tradition. His grandfather served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and his great-grandfather was a sergeant in the Connecticut Army National Guard. Schappa's future plans include seeking a commission, either through the ROTC program or OCS, and pursuing an electronics engineering undergraduate degree. He would also like to continue his service with the Guard through retirement.

Schappa confesses a love of travel, snowboarding, hiking and boating as some of his passions. "But for now, it's more preparation, and then on to Atlanta," he stated, where he will compete in the First Army NCO of the Year board and be challenged once again.



103rd FW Senior NCO of the Year



"Being selected as the Senior NCO for the 103rd Fighter Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard (CTANG) was an all time personal and professional high," said Master Sgt. Scott C. Pearsall. "This award became more valuable as I stopped and thought of my peers' abilities and accomplishments, and the fact I was representing one of the finest Air National Guard units in the country. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Chris Johnstone and all involved in this demanding and highly competitive process," he continued.

Pearsall is currently assigned as a Munitions and Weapons Quality Assurance Inspector for the 103rd Fighter Wing Bradley Air National Guard (ANG) Base in Connecticut. In May of 1976, he enlisted in the Air Force and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, in August 1976. After completion of Technical School and Intelligence School, he received an assignment to Hurlburt Field, Florida with Air Force Special Operations Command. Pearsall performed intelligence briefings for both air and ground forces in support of counter drug missions in Central America. In addition, he flew as a weapons augmentee on an AC-130 aircraft. In September of 1980 Pearsall attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he majored in psychology and was involved with the inception of a biofeedback program at the college.

In 1982 Pearsall relocated to Connecticut and joined the CTANG and was assigned to the Munitions Storage area and worked there until November 1996 when he was assigned to Quality Assurance. During his assignment to Munitions Storage, he was appointed to the "Senior Munitions Inspector" position and was responsible for special projects dealing with munitions and munitions accountability.

As the Weapons and Munitions Quality Assurance Inspector, he has a solid foundation and corporate knowledge of munitions. Due to his expertise in the field of munitions coupled with a positive attitude, Pearsall has been appointed as an Air National Guard Explosive Safety Instructor and has also performed staff assistance visits on behalf of our major commands. His contributions to the unit have also resulted in an explosive safety site plan that enables the 103rd Fighter Wing to meet its wartime commitments.

Pearsall enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and travel and is a modest collector of art. The thing that brings him the most joy is being with his 10-year-old son. They share many common interests. Pearsall's son Jacob enjoys playing numerous sports. Pearsall realizes the importance of spending quality time with his son, and as result he gets involved in coaching some of his son's teams. He also understands that being a good father is the greatest job he'll ever have.

Solomon is Air Guard First Sergeant of the Year

By Maj. Richard D. Erdmann,
103rd Air Control Squadron, CTANG

Senior Master Sgt. Charles E. Solomon is currently assigned as the first sergeant, 103rd Air Control Squadron, Orange Air National Guard Station, Connecticut Air National Guard (CTANG). Born in Bangor, Maine in 1943, he was educated in his hometown of West Haven, Conn.

Solomon graduated from West Haven High School in 1962 captaining the football team during his senior year. Immediately upon graduation, Solomon entered military service as a member of the United States Air Force, completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, and attending the Preventative Medicine technical school at Jacksonville Naval Air Station (NAS), Fla. He served a nine-month tour on the demilitarized zone in South Korea and, after his return, attended the Disease Vector and Pest Control Technologies technical school at the Alameda NAS, California.

Upon completion, he served a one-year tour in Vietnam, separating from active service following his return. Utilizing GI Bill education benefits, he attended Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. In 1969, while attending SCSU, he met and married Jane Martone of Hamden, Conn. They now have three children: Todd, Heather, and Kara.

Solomon enlisted as a surveillance technician with the 103rd Tactical Control Squadron, CTANG in 1982. In 1986, the 152nd Tactical Control Group awarded him with a certificate of meritorious service for being the squadron's outstanding noncommissioned officer. The following year, Solomon deployed to Cervia, Italy, in support of DISPLAY DETERMINATION '87, a North American Treaty Organization exercise.

He was selected as the noncommissioned officer in charge of operations training and later the standardization and evaluation branch conversion from the AN/TSQ-91 Operations Central to the AN/TQ-23 Operations Module in 1994. He again returned to the classroom, this time earning his six-year degree in Administration and Guidance in 1994.

In September 1997, Solomon was selected as first sergeant. He then completed the United States Air Force First Sergeant Academy at McGee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn. in 1997. During the unit's presidential selective activation in 1999, Solomon and his wife Jane, were instrumental in the planning and organization of an informational package for deploying unit members and their families prior to the members' departure to Italy in support of OPERATION ALLIED FORCE. These packages contained vital information that eased the tension family members felt during the separation from their loved ones. Monthly, Solomon awards one airmen the coveted First Sergeant's Award, thereby enhancing the unit's esprit de corps. He and his wife have planned and organized the squadron retirement parties for the past ten years.



Closing the Back Door

By Sgt. First Class David V. Rinaldo
Marketing NCO

"National Guard unit receives commendation for excellence in Attrition Management and Retention." Is this your unit? Taking care of soldiers is a fundamental concept that is the largest contributor to where your unit will fall on these two measures. Achieving excellence in morale and readiness must be a constant, proactive way of life. Sponsorship of new soldiers is a primary foundation.

Let's examine a typical new enlistment. After a load of paperwork and a physical, Johnny is officially "inboots." His recruiter brings him to the unit where he receives a work schedule and is sized for a uniform. Sgt. Right calls prior to the drill to explain that she is his team leader. She advises him to be at the unit on Saturday morning at 0730 hours because she will be waiting at the front entrance. Furthermore, she provides her home and work phone if he needs to contact her. A few days prior to the drill, Johnny's recruiter calls to remind him about his first workday.

Sgt. Right meets him prior to drill and immediately provides an introduction to a group of soldiers. At the sound of "Fall in," Sgt. Right grabs his arm and has him stand by her as part of the formation. Already Johnny is made to feel like a part of the company. The key leadership all seem incredibly busy, but they still make time to sit down with him. When 1630 hours comes he is beat from all the hands-on

training and classes he participated in.

Johnny is confident when the time comes to leave for basic. He feels a strong competitive advantage as a result of all the intense training he received on previous drills. His first assembly back from basic training is memorable. Johnny blends right in with the unit members in the areas of uniform wear and appearance. Before first formation starts, his section sergeant welcomes him back. Since he is the most recently trained member of her team, Sgt. Right tasks him to give a class that afternoon on CIT.

Is this a true story from your unit? As a private, specialist or noncommissioned officer, you are the Guard. The Guard is not equipment, trucks or weapons. It is not preventative maintenance or driver training. The Guard is people. People like you. Whether you are a private or a first line leader, what you do has a direct impact on what the Guard is and what it will become. Even the low guy on the totem pole, the unit sponsor, can make a difference.

As an initial sponsor for a new soldier, you have an immense power. Think back to the reason you joined the Guard. How did you feel when you were there one, three, six or 20 years ago? Who did you look up to and why? And most importantly, do you now exhibit these mentoring characteristics yourself?

The future of the Guard is not based on funding, politics or filling available positions. The future of the Guard is based on one thing only: YOU!

Safe GUARDing Connecticut's Youth

By Maj. Chuck Strong
Drug Demand Reduction Administrator

A unique relationship was created two years ago between the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) and Howell Cheney Regional Vocational Technical School. Junior and senior students are given an opportunity to obtain "real life" training that will help them get jobs or go on to another trade school upon graduation.

The creator of the program is our own Sgt. First Class Brian Tripp from Headquarters State Area Command's Logistics and Maintenance Office. Tripp, a 1986 Cheney Tech graduate, and Joseph Holley, director of Cheney Tech's diesel department, worked together to create a dynamic new program called Maintenance Assistance Instruction Team (MAIT) 2000. While not an exclusive Drug Prevention Program, it does meet our vision of "Offering youth the opportunity to positively influence their own lives". Providing students the opportunity to work on real life equipment motivates them to excel and focus on a future that not only benefits them, but an industry short in qualified mechanics.

These students are working with CTARNG members at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Hartell in Windsor Locks. By working with our guard members, the students learn to service tactical vehicles and important safety measures, such as correct procedures for storing hazardous materials and strict federal laws that regulate such storage.



This program is a win-win situation says Tripp. Guard members receive experience as instructors, while the students obtain training that is unavailable at Cheney Tech.

One winning story is senior Charles Maglin who said MAIT 2000 helped him finish first and thirteenth in the nation last year in a diesel-oriented competition sponsored by the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. He plans on attending Northwest Technical College in Lima, Ohio on a \$5,000 scholarship.

MAIT 2000 will be around for sometime with students helping out at CSMS and at Camp Rowland where a MAIT 2000 weekend will occur, sponsored by the Drug Demand Reduction Program in the spring.

If you fell down yesterday,
stand up today. —
H. G. Wells

EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

By Staff Sgt. Jon Romeo
Education Services Office

The mission statement for the Education Services Office of the Connecticut Army National Guard calls for "supporting soldiers in realizing their educational goals." In most cases, this is routine support, tuition waivers, tuition assistance or score testing. Yet when Capt. Steve Gilbert came to ask for support in realizing his educational goals, Education Services Officer Capt. Moira Carpenter knew it would be anything but routine.

Gilbert needed to acquire 36 credits to obtain his bachelor's degree, he wanted to do them without sitting through any traditional college classes, and he needed to complete them in four months.

"We have helped many soldiers in the Connecticut Army National Guard obtain their degrees through nontraditional programs," said Carpenter, "but never so many credits in such a short period of time."

The first step for Gilbert was to have a formal evaluation of all his previous college work through Regents College in New York. Regents College is the external degree program of the state of New York. It is licensed and accredited by the Department of High Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. Regents College offers adult learners anytime, anywhere method to earn credits; an array of methods to assess the learning acquired through experience; cost effective alternatives for earning credits towards a degree; and has no residency requirement and no limit on the number or age of transfer credits.

Individualized degree planning is the hallmark of Regents College. Once enrolled,

Gilbert was assigned an academic advisor who assisted him in developing his plan of study. At Regents College, it was determined which credits he would need to complete his degree. He learned that he would need to take 12 CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and ROEP (Regents College Exam Program) tests in junior and senior level areas such as history, statistics and psychology among others. Each of the standardized tests has a study guide available and Gilbert also purchased many college level textbooks to assist in his preparation. Gilbert put the total cost of finishing his degree at \$1,500.

Once he had a plan of study for which tests he needed, the task ahead was mainly scheduling.

"I knew that I needed a plan for studying and for taking the tests," Gilbert said. He set a schedule for taking one exam every one or two weeks. He reported putting in between 15 and 20 hours each week preparing for the exams. Carpenter arranged for a member of her Education Services Office staff to meet Gilbert on Tuesday evenings to administer the tests.

"Gilbert's preparation for the exams was the major factor in his success," said Carpenter. "He came ready for every exam and passed each one with flying colors." Gilbert was quick to credit his family for supporting him through the process and notes that persistence and a clear focus were two traits that allowed him to meet with success.

What advice does Gilbert offer to those soldiers in the Connecticut Army National Guard who are looking to complete their degree program?

"Don't wait. If you have the desire to obtain your degree, the Connecticut National Guard can help you make it happen!"



By 2LT Wayne B. Ferris
103rd Fighter Wing

As the world's only superpower prepares itself for the new century, being militarily ready means that United States' forces must be prepared to conduct a broad range of military missions without being spread too thin. This requires suitable types and levels of forces to accomplish missions across the spectrum of operations, as well as sustaining a high level of training and morale and maintaining modern, reliable equipment and facilities.

Supporting the National Security Strategy requires the Air Force and Reserve components to maintain robust and versatile military forces that can concurrently accomplish a wide variety of missions. These forces must be able to offset the military power of regional states with interests opposed to those of the US and its allies. To do this, the Air Force must be able to credibly deter and, if required, decisively defeat aggression in concert with regional allies, by projecting and sustaining US power in two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts.

Secondly, the Air Force must be forward deployed or stationed in key overseas regions in peacetime to deter aggression, demonstrate US commitment to allies and friends, gain familiarity with overseas operating environments; promote joint and combined training among friendly forces and provide initial capabilities for timely response to crises. The Air Force must also be prepared for a wide range of contingency operations in support of US interests. These operations include, among others, smaller-scale combat operations, multilateral peace operations, counter-terrorism, and sanctions enforcement.

To meet all these requirements, the Air Force and its Reserve components must be capable of responding quickly and operating effectively. This requires strategic mobility, highly qualified and motivated

personnel, modern and well maintained equipment, realistic training and sufficient support and sustainment capabilities. How the Air Force and Air National Guard accomplish this task is no longer in doubt.

The Air Force's transition to an Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF) is on its way after successfully completing the first two rotations. Since the Cold War's end, the Air Force's involvement in humanitarian and contingency operations increased dramatically while the number of people decreased by 40 percent.

The Air Force developed a solution that addressed operations and personnel tempo better than the previous system. Launched in October and attached with ten Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEFs) and two dedicated on-call Aerospace Expeditionary Wings (AEWs), the Expeditionary Aerospace Force involves reorganizing forces that can rapidly respond anywhere when needed.



These AEFs and AEWs allow the Air Force to tailor its military response, based on flexible and timely capabilities required by a commander. For example, under the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept, the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing will normally be eligible to deploy for a single 30-day period every 30 months. By providing ten scheduled, tailored Aerospace Expeditionary Forces, the EAF concept is designed to meet the Nation's known contingency requirements such as Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Those portions of the EAF not deployed remain in an on-call status along with the two Aerospace Expeditionary Wings to provide additional contingency response capabilities. EAF also provides most units, people and families the stability and predictability they need to plan for time off training and school. Until now, only aircrews and maintainers deployed as scheduled teams in an EAF concept. The

next step includes support forces, called Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS), as scheduled teams instead of individual assignments.

The Air Force is on track to align AEFs as total-force packages. Once the alignment is complete, units deploy as a team instead of individuals augmenting teams already in place. As a unit is scheduled for an AEF in advance, it allows units from different bases to coordinate with each other and to all train to the same task, optimizing the team concept once in theater. The Air Force's new Aerospace Expeditionary Forces Center was established recently at Langley Air Force Base (AFB) to coordinate unit's preparation for their AEF deployment. Connecticut's own 103rd Fighter Wing is part of the Air Combat Command (ACC) and the EAF concept ensures ACC personnel are used to their fullest potential.

Operating under the EAF, the Air Force distributes more fairly the global tasking throughout major commands. Active-duty ACC personnel make-up about 24 percent of the Air Force population. With EAF, ACC will fill about a quarter of the Air Force assignments. While the Air Force's total number of responsibilities remain the same; active-duty ACC people will see a reduced work level, thanks in large part to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves, which fill about 10 percent of the total EAF requirements. The Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing is committed to the EAF as a component of one of the ten AEFs and is scheduled to participate in the Fall of 2001.

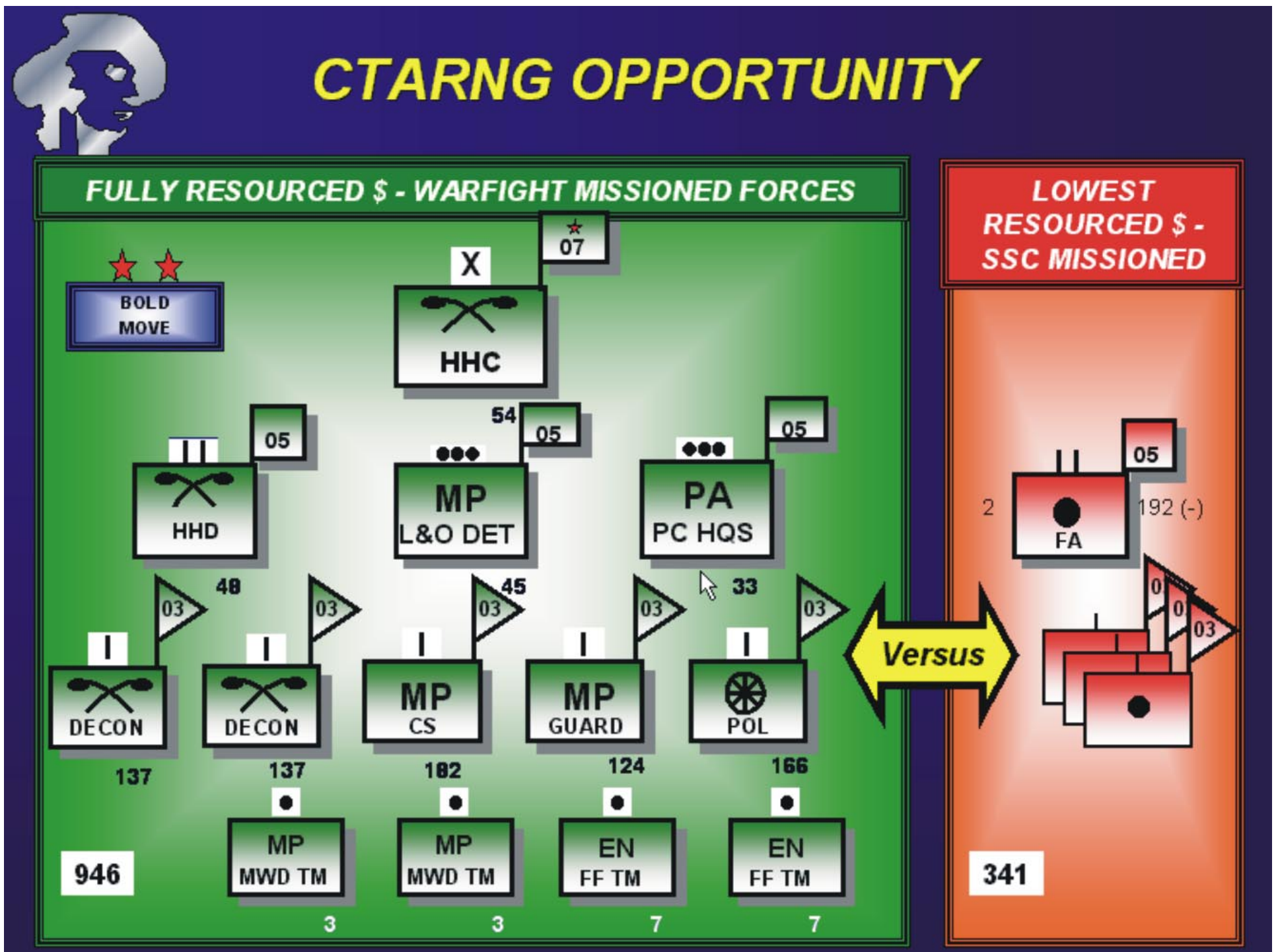
Another benefit will come as some bases receive manpower "plus-ups" to help in high operations tempo career fields. In the coming months, units will start to see the first installment of about 2,600 additional manpower authorizations and people to help backfill those deployed. Once units are in place, an impact analysis will be accomplished to

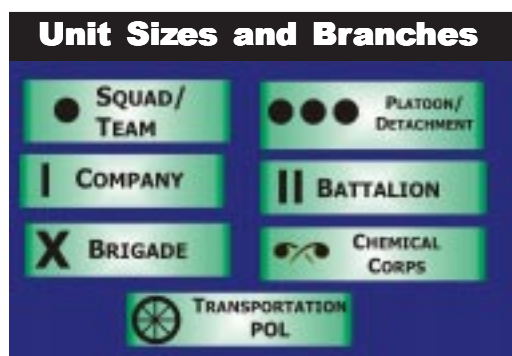
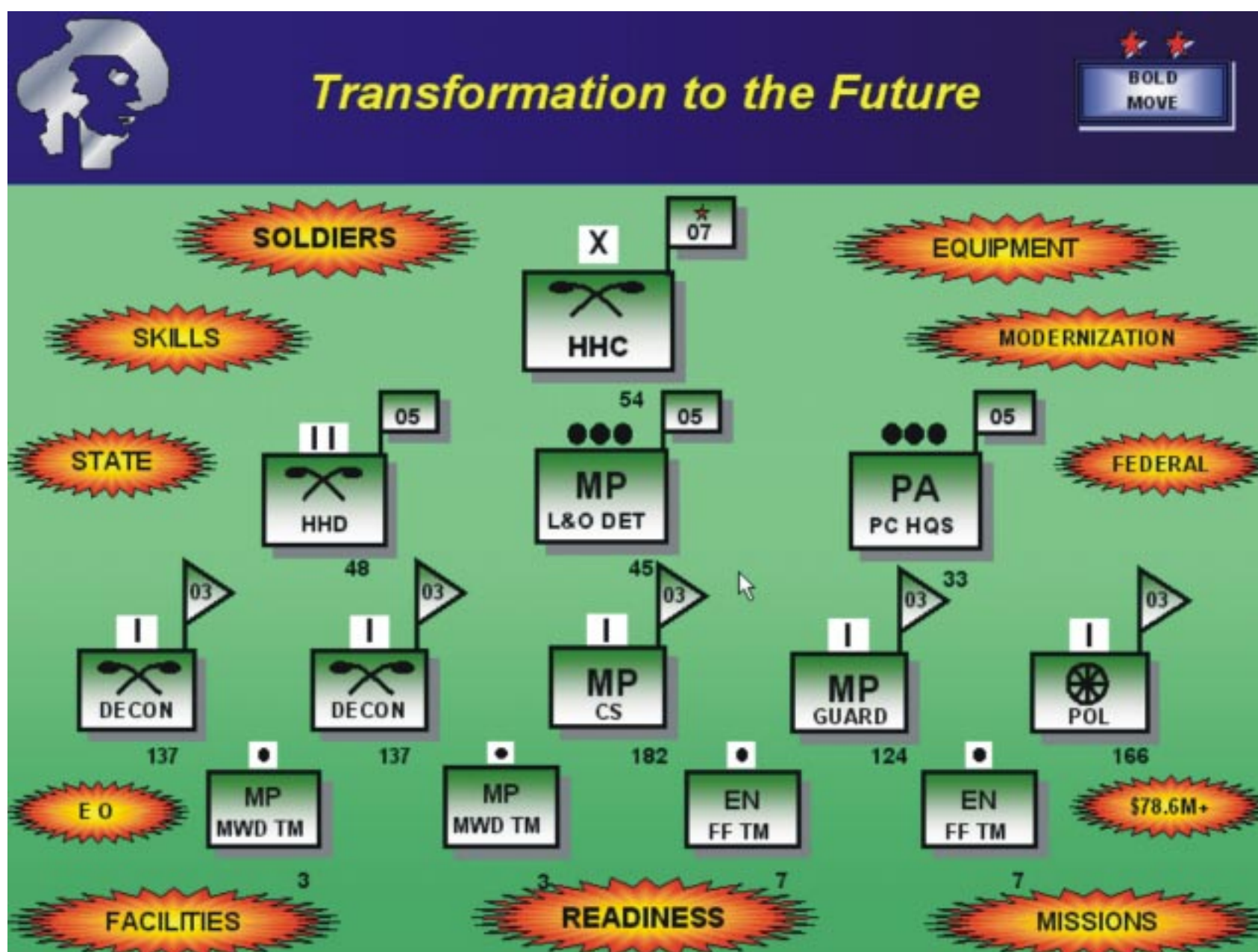
ensure units are receiving the help they need. The Air Force then assigns an extra 2,600 people to fill in where they are most needed, starting in fiscal year 2001.

Supporting the National Security Strategy requires the Air Force and Reserve components to maintain robust and versatile military forces that can concurrently accomplish a wide variety of missions.

The United States will never know with certainty who the next opponent will be, how that opponent will fight, or how the conflict unfolds. In addition, the contributions of forces will vary from place to place and over time. "Balanced" U.S. forces are needed in order to provide a wide range of complementary capabilities and to fight and win. By providing leadership and credible forces, the Connecticut Air National Guard and the 103rd Fighter Wing are stepping forward as a preferred security partner with the Expeditionary Air Force and are truly assisting with shaping the international security arena.







Older Than the Nation

By Capt. Robert J. Nearine, 1st Co.
Governor's Foot Guard (Col. AUS Ret.)
Photos courtesy of First Company
Governor's Foot Guard

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part article. The second half will appear in the May 2000 issue of the Connecticut Guardian.)

Generations of Hartford area residents have thrilled to the stirring rhythms of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard band as the company paraded by on St. Patrick's Day



and other festive occasions. Many wondered about the silver trimmed red and buff colonial uniforms. They've wondered about the red and black plumed bearskin busbies and how they came to be. For many citizens, the Foot Guard was simply part of Connecticut; for others, it was one of the best-kept secrets in Hartford.

Organized in Hartford in October 1771, the First Company Governor's Foot Guard (1st Co. GFG) is the oldest military organization in continuous service in the United States. The company is the oldest in the Connecticut State Militia and was formed to protect the governor and General Assembly. The company is made up of citizens of good character between the ages of 18 and 64, although older members retain their membership in an associate status.

In 1771, Hartford was a small town with only 3,000 residents. Located midway between New York and Boston, a trip to either of these "citified" communities required days of travel in a stagecoach that ran once a week. What entertainment there

was, was homegrown and locally organized. It was no wonder that Hartford citizens made much of the various holidays, especially "Election Day."

Election Day was a time for fun and frivolity. In the earliest days of the

colony, it was the day that the governor was elected, but by the end of the eighteenth century, elections took place in the fall. What was called Election Day was actually a spring inaugural festival.

Since Connecticut was one of only two English colonies to elect its own governor, a day in May was set aside as the time when the governor was paraded, preached to, seen and finally, sworn into office. Since all the clergy and members of the General Assembly were also in town, Election Day was the colony's biggest annual party.

Historians report that in 1768, the Election Day escort was particularly boisterous and failed to attend to its duties. What the escort did was not reported, but apparently the conduct was such a reflection on the "honor and repute of the place we call home," that a group of civic-minded Hartford men with military inclinations decided it was time to take corrective action. Their plan was to bring order to the festivities by organizing a select Hartford infantry, or foot company, which would escort

the governor and General Assembly at future Election Day activities. The group began by submitting a petition to the Connecticut General Assembly.

The petition was granted in October 1771 and Samuel Wyllys, a 32-year-old member of a prominent Hartford family, was elected captain of the company, known as the Governor's Guard. Since the fall session of the General Assembly was held in New Haven, a second foot company was organized four years later. The New Haven organization became the Second Company, changing the name of the Hartford company to the First Company Governor's Guard. When the Horse Guard was chartered in 1778, the name changed for a final time to the First Company Governor's Foot Guard.

The composition of the First Company is set by Connecticut legislation. In order to wear the grenadier uniform, an applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Connecticut and be of good character, well mannered behavior, physically fit, neat appearance and shall not be less than 18 years of age. All applicants must sign an enlistment form and be recommended by a member of the company. There are more than 200

members of the company, including associate, honorary and life members. The Major Commandant and other line of officers continue to be elected in keeping with colonial tradition.

It is believed the grenadier uniform was copied from the Coldstream Guards, the personal bodyguard of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. The uniform consists of a scarlet coat, the tails of which are faced with buff and a black velvet front crossed with silver braid. The vest and breeches are buff and the leggings are black velvet. The hat, or busby, is made of bearskin and carries the State Coat of Arms and a black feather plume. Enlisted members wear white cross straps and officers wear a black and silver waist belt. Because of a 1965 "bond of friendship" with the Coldstream Guards, company members also wear the red and blue guards brigade necktie with their informal blazer uniforms.

Company meetings were held in various places throughout Hartford until a permanent home was found in 1888. The present High Street Armory was purchased by the company for a little over \$60,000 (a substantial amount of money for the time) and was dedicated on October 16, 1888.



CTARNG Soldier receives American Red Cross Hero Award

By: Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton
State Sr. Public Affairs NCO

You never know when an ordinary day will become an extraordinary one. You never know when training you thought you would only use on the job, will become the difference between life and death for a stranger. And it's not everyday a person receives the American Red Cross Hero Award for saving someone's life.

Staff Sgt. Josephine Grey of the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) found these things can, and do, happen.

Last August, Grey had boarded a Delta Airlines flight to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to visit family for a week. Everything was going fine until about two hours into the flight when Grey noticed an elderly man sitting a few rows ahead of her was having problems getting out of his seat. The man's wife was unable to assist him and he pushed the call button to get help from a flight attendant.

A second flight attendant brought a wheelchair to help the man get to the restroom, as it was too difficult for him to walk. Grey noticed the two attendants were still having trouble trying to hold

the man up while positioning the chair behind him.

After returning from the restroom, the 76-year-old man was brought closer to the front of the plane where the attendants could more closely monitor him. Moments later, the announcement no one on a plane wants to hear, came across the loudspeaker.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have a medical emergency. If there is a medical doctor on board, will you please step forward now?"

"My heart raced a few times and my palms got sweaty as I was listening to this announcement, trying to believe it wasn't true," said Grey, a medical assistant in nursing school, as well as a full-time member of the CTARNG. "I looked around, hoping a doctor would be on board, but there wasn't a soul who came forward for what seemed like five long minutes. Everybody was just turning their heads to each other, talking about it and not even trying to help."

Disgusted with the lack of empathy, Grey realized that if she didn't at least try something to help, the elderly could possibly die. She got up and went to the front of the plane.

"I'm not a doctor," she told the flight attendants, "but I am a medical assistant in nursing school. What can I do to help?" A couple minutes later, a licensed practical

nurse (LPN) came forward to assist, also.

The man was complaining of abdominal pains, uncontrollable bowel movement and overall not feeling well. Grey asked for the first aid kit and went right to work, quickly checking his vital signs. She noticed his skin was cool and clammy and he had slight problem breathing. His pulse was rapid, and when Grey ran her finger across the man's palm, he couldn't feel it. His heart was beating rapidly, his speech was slurred and he had drool running from the corner of his mouth.

After consulting with each other, Grey and the LPN determined the man was having a stroke.

"Careful of what we said to whom, we got the attention of the flight attendants and told them what was at stake," said Grey. "They listened to us, eager to help some more. I then told them that it would be in his best interest, as a matter of life and death, to land the plane as soon as possible and take him to the nearest hospital where he could get better qualified medical assistance."

Every minute counted at this point and time was of the essence, according to Grey. The pilots were informed of the situation and determined they could continue on and land in Fort Lauderdale in 30 minutes as scheduled, or divert and land 15 minutes

earlier in Daytona.

"I didn't waste any time making a decision, telling them to land in Daytona. This man needed medical attention as soon as possible," said Grey.

Grey and the LPN continued to monitor the man's condition carefully, reassuring him and his wife that things would be okay. Upon landing in Daytona, the plane was met by an ambulance and paramedics who immediately put the man on a stretcher. According to the paramedics, if Grey and the LPN had not insisted on diverting the plane, it would have been only a matter of minutes before the man's condition had worsened to the point where his life would have literally been at stake.

"As we returned to our seats, the rest of the passengers greeted us with applause," said Grey. "I can't tell you what a great feeling it was to have the satisfaction of possibly saving someone's life. It was a sense of accomplishment no one could ever take away."

In December of 1999, in front of a packed room that included many friends and co-workers, Grey received the American Red Cross Hero Award for her quick actions and willingness to help a stranger in need.

You never know...

An ever moving, ever changing battlefield...

By: Capt. Scott Wilson
CTARNG Public Affairs Office

You never know when you might have to go, so be prepared.

The 143rd Military Police (MP) Company, part of the 143rd Area Support Group, deployed three times in the last eight years to various "hot spots" in the world. It is a unit that knows the meaning of constant readiness, and trains to that aim every opportunity it gets.

Recently the company conducted a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) Olympics, testing the skills of MPs and their leadership in NBC tasks in a competitive environment. During the day long competition, soldiers learned to employ a claymore mine while in full MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture) gear; perform a functions check on and maintain their M16A2 rifles and perform VIP escort and security in a contaminated environment. They also had to administer self and buddy aid; perform a two and three man carry of a casualty; exchange MOPP gear and don their M40 protective masks in under nine seconds. Throughout the competition, teams were scored on proficiency and efficiency, and the best

attained bragging rights as NBC gold medal winners; further, they earned qualification in many common tasks as a result.

"I really needed a refresher," said Squad Leader Spc. Brian Lozier. "We just received the M40 masks this fall, and I haven't seen one since my initial training. I did some team training with my team before this so that we would be prepared for the competition, but this [NBC] training really builds our confidence," he remarked.

"It's great familiarization for me," a masked Pfc. Michael Tanguay of the third platoon stated in a muffled voice as he practiced emplacing a claymore mine. "We need to be able to keep our area secure, or prepare an ambush site, so this is great training."

The MPs primary mission is battlefield circulation and control. It can also perform other roles, including law and order maintenance, enemy prisoner-of-war control, and area security. Between corps forward and division rear areas, the unit must ensure the safe transition of personnel and equipment. It must be able to rapidly adapt to a constantly changing, consistently moving, and sometimes contaminated battlefield to ensure mission success. That is what the NBC Olympics are all about.



Staff Sgt. Edwin Coleman inspects Pfc. Zachary Frecto as he performs a functions check on his M16A2 rifle during recent training conducted by the 143rd Military Police Company. (Photo by Capt. Scott Wilson)

T.G.I.F.

The Guard
Is Family



By Kim Hoffman
Family Program Coordinator

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

Have you shown your appreciation to the volunteers in the CING Family Program? Especially this year "The Year of the Military Family" there are numerous activities scheduled that depend upon the work of many volunteers for their success. Take the time to say Thanks to your involved family program members.

This is a good time to consider inviting additional family members to join in the program or to get a group started in your unit. In addition to the satisfaction of contributing to the readiness of the Guard, many of the events are fun for the entire family. There are many different ways, large and small that you can participate. Phone, travel and childcare expenses can even be reimbursed for trained, non-military volunteers.

If you are interested ask your unit representative to submit your name and phone number to Kim Hoffman, the Family Program Coordinator or call the Family Program Office directly at 1-800-858-2677.

MORE APPRECIATION!!!

The month of May is Military Spouse Appreciation Month. Have you ordered your roses yet? They are the ideal way to show your gratitude to your wife, husband or any other person who supports your membership in the Guard. At only ten dollars a dozen it's a great price and the Family Program even gets a little profit to establish the Emergency Relief Fund for CT National Guard families. The boxed long stemmed roses will be delivered to your unit on your scheduled drill weekend. Orders and payments must be received in the Family Program Office before April 21!!!

YOUTH CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

The National Guard Youth Camp will be conducted 30 July through 5 August 2000 at Camp Rowland. Campers, teen counselors, parent chaperones and support personnel are needed. Applications and more information are available by calling the Family Program Office.

Success is the marriage of
motivation and will –
Unknown

NGACT: National Guard Association of Connecticut

By Lt. Col. Bill Shea
President

By the time that you read this, the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT) 2000 Annual Conference will have already passed. I am sure that it was as successful as in the past years. As of the conference, I assumed the duties as your president of the NGACT.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Donlon, our immediate past-president. During the past two years, Tom has worked very hard to further the efforts of the NGACT in support of our Army Guardsmen, Air Guardsmen, their families and retirees. He has been instrumental in the continued support of various activities within the Connecticut Army & Air National Guard. Tom dedicated numerous hours of his personal time to the betterment of the Connecticut National Guard. Our National Guard Association is better today because of his efforts. On behalf of the NGACT, its executive council and members, I'd like to thank Tom for his outstanding efforts and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

As your new president, I want to make sure that we continue in a positive direction. I have developed the following areas of concentration for my efforts and the efforts of the Executive Council of the NGACT.

1. Membership. The membership of the NGACT is low, much lower than it should be. We are currently hovering around 1,000 members, including retirees. With a combined strength of over 5,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen, the association can be a robust and vibrant organization. I am asking for your support by helping to increase our membership in 2000. A strong membership will lead to a strong association. If you are not a member, I ask that you join. If you are a member, encourage someone who is not a member to join.

2. Communications. We, the NGACT, have not done a good job in communicating information regarding our activities & initiatives, legislative programs, membership information and other organizational programs. This has not reflected well on our association with its membership. We have the ability to convey

our actions and initiatives to our members. We will look for the most logical and expeditious means of sharing information with our members. We will improve in this area and keep our membership informed.

3. Legislative. The NGACT has become more involved in supporting various legislative initiatives at both the state and national level. We are working closely with Maj. Gen. (William A.) Cugno, the adjutant general, and his staff in supporting the legislative initiatives this year. We also have a large representation on Maj. Gen. Cugno's Legislative Action Plan Tiger Team. Some of the state initiatives that we have supported this year include establishment of the CING as a Law Enforcement Agency and increased support by the state on Military Funerals. The NGACT has been working with other military associations and veterans organizations in support a state bill that would exempt military retirements from the state income tax. We have also just recently helped sponsor a legislative luncheon at the Senate Office Building in Washington, DC for the Connecticut delegation. In the past few months, the legislative activities have been busy. We will communicate these efforts to our membership and learn and support your ideas.

4. Volunteers. In order for any organization to be successful, its members need to be involved. The NGACT is just like any other organization; we need volunteers to support various activities and committees. We have had some volunteers who have worked very hard of the years, but we need more. If you are interested in supporting a committee or working on a project or would be willing to volunteer to support an activity, please contact me at my e-mail address below or contact the NGACT Office at the number below.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the NGACT. The best way to reach me is via e-mail. My e-mail address is william.shea@t.mjb.amy.mil. You can also reach me at my work number (860) 441-2909. You may want to contact our association of fice in the Hartford Armory. Our number is (860) 247-5000. The phone number is not always manned, but you can leave a message on the answering machine and someone will return your call. Also, please take a look at your association's web page. The Internet address is <http://www.ngact.state.org>. I look forward to serving you during the next two years and I hope to make the NGACT a better organization.



ESGR

By Lt. Col. (Ret) Harry Ritson
ESGR Public Affairs

The Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) all but guarantees that any National Guard

or Reserve member activated for emergency or regular training, whether ordered or voluntary, doesn't have to worry about job loss or discrimination by their employer. They have become another "Protected Class" of employee.

Based on the alarming number of employment conflicts that arose as the troops returned from the Persian Gulf call up, USERRA was signed into law in December 1994 replacing the 1944 Veterans Reemployment Rights Act. Administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, the law clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees in call-ups, voluntary training situations and regular drills. It also prohibits discrimination against current or future employees who are members of the reserve components. A factsheet, Questions and Answers for Employers and Employees who participate in the National Guard and Reserve, outlines the pertinent particulars and is available by calling Lt. Col. Harry Ritson, USA-Retired, at (860) 659-1737.

With the continuing downsizing of the active military (40

percent since 1991), more reliance is being placed on the reserve components. Their responsibility for ongoing military missions has risen from 40 percent to 54 percent during that same period, and it is currently impossible to deploy the active forces without significant, activated support from the Guard and Reserves. This has and continues to create increasing tensions between employers and America's 1.9 million citizen soldiers.

Since 1972 the Department of Defense has maintained an office that helps resolve duty related conflicts between reservists and their civilian employers - The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. It maintains offices in each state, manned by volunteers, and is prepared to respond to questions from both employers and reservists. It also provides an Ombudsman in each state who is authorized to intervene prior to the Department of Labor involvement to resolve disputes through education and arbitration. Connecticut's Ombudsman Program was recently designated and awarded as the "best in the country" by the Department of Defense with a resolution success rate of over 90 percent.

Information on the services of the Ombudsman is available through Capt. Thomas Langlais, USCG-Ret. at (860) 283-4222. You are welcomed and encouraged to call for answers to your questions or to help resolve conflicts. There is no charge or obligation for these services.

T3BL HOSTS CTARNG IN HIGH TECH EXERCISE

Story and Photos By
Staff Sgt. William J. McDonnell
T3BL Public Affairs NCO

"This was an exceptional weekend of training," said 1st Lt. Stefan Sanchez, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, Connecticut Army National Guard. "The Army National Guard's Battle Staff Training Branch (BSTB) helped us run an efficient and beneficial training exercise."

The BSTB, located at Fort Dix, N.J., hosted the 1/102nd in an exercise designed to train the officers and soldiers to exercise the military decision making process and practice synchronizing Battlefield Operating Systems (BOS) on the JANUS computer simulation system at the Training and Training Technology Lab (T3BL). The 1/102nd is headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut, with units located throughout state.

"The 1/102nd traveled to the T3BL with definite training objectives in mind," said Sgt. First Class Roy Smith, noncommissioned officer in charge of the BSTB. "In two days of intense training with the BSTB staff, the 1/102nd refined communication skills and operations plans. This was also a unique opportunity for their leaders to test their standard operating procedures and reporting processes within the company."

"Constant training is important in this environment," Smith added. "Continual changes in unit organization and staff reinforce the need for exposure to systems such as the JANUS. All the soldiers

benefited from this training experience."

The actual mission of the 1/102nd in this exercise was to deny enemy use of bridge sites located in Korea. Operations orders and fragmentary orders were issued

enemy forces.

"The T3BL did a great job supporting the 1/102nd's exercise," said 1st Lt. Michael J. Sipples, who served as battle captain in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC). "Not

only did we benefit from this exercise but we also learned about the extensive training JANUS can provide for a battalion. The many different scenarios offered by JANUS make for unlimited training possibilities and benefits."

Capt. James M c L e a n agreed with Sipples comments. "I

w a s impressed with the benefits of the exercise. This experience at the T3BL will help improve our command and control functions. It stresses the importance of rapid processing of enemy information. It also helps with accurate and timely reporting of critical information to both higher and subordinate elements."

"This exercise is a classic example of why we train," said Capt. John Denault, Company C commander. "Learning and reinforcing the lessons learned help us improve. For example, here at the T3BL I learned a great deal about report requirements and the flow of information. This exercise reinforced the significance of order planning and the need for simplicity and clarity in communications."

"This operation at the T3BL was a total success," added Denault. "It should be executed each and every year. Working with the BSTB facilitators is a unique experience for battalion staff and our company commanders."

Many soldiers from the 1/102nd expressed amazement at how quickly they learned basic BSTB and JANUS functions.

"I was very surprised at how quickly I picked up the technical knowledge needed to be effective," said Spc. Ken Hill. "Working with JANUS was interesting and it was also fun. I definitely benefited from this exercise at the T3BL."

The BSTB staff received many accolades from the visiting Connecticut soldiers. "It was a great feeling to work with professionals like the BSTB staff. An important factor for the learning experience of our soldiers was that the BSTB staff was available to answer questions and guide us during moments of uncertainty. The BSTB staff assisted us when necessary without upsetting the objective of the unit training mission. The BSTB staff was outstanding in relating to our situation."



Soldiers from 1/102nd Infantry, Connecticut Army National Guard, evaluate enemy forces on Battle Staff Training Branch JANUS simulation system at Training & Training Technology Battle Lab.

describing the situation, mission, and execution.

The Connecticut soldiers were confronted with enemy forces positioned along the Namhan River. The mission of these enemy units was to delay the 1/102nd with a moving defensive while also contending with the chemical and air capability of the

NEWS FROM THE 103D ACS - YANKEE WATCH

By: Maj. Richard D. Erdmann
103rd Air Control Squadron, CTARNG

The 103rd Air Control Squadron (ACS), located in Orange, Connecticut is a Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence (C4I) element within a mobile Theater Air Control System. As a Control and Reporting Center, the unit provides air surveillance, identification, weapons control and air battle management functions from base locations that require ground defense, chemical warfare defense and worldwide mobility capabilities.

Consisting of 48 full-time and over 200 traditional guardsmen and women, the 103rd has a proud heritage dating from 1946, when it was originally stationed at Brainard Field in Hartford as the 103rd Aircraft Command and Warning Squadron. Since that time, the unit has provided command, control, and communications worldwide. In fact, the 103rd ACS is the oldest unit of its kind in the Air National Guard. In 1962, the unit moved to its present site in Orange, a former Army Nike site.

The men and women of the 103rd have been federally activated and deployed to Iceland, Germany and Italy in support of Operation Allied Force. Throughout its history, the 103rd ACS has continued a tradition of excellence and professional military service. In 1994, the 103rd won the coveted "Air Force Outstanding Unit Award", a fitting tribute to the unit's long legacy of superb operational successes.

The biggest item in the future is the construction of our new buildings planned and

funded for fiscal year 2002. Work is currently underway with Senate and Congressional representatives to get the project added to the 2001 military construction (MilCon) budget. As the current buildings are from the early 1950s, the new buildings will provide the upgraded facilities the squadron desperately needs to move smoothly into the 21st century.

On the horizon for the 103rd is conversion to updated operations and communications equipment in April 2000, which will give the unit increased capability for surveillance and weapons control, as well as enhanced ability to communicate with airborne platforms. After the new equipment arrivals, the unit will undergo four weeks of training from a Mobile Training Team. This team will teach the full-timers how the equipment works and how it must be maintained and repaired.

Annual field training ("summer camp") will be accomplished at Otis Air Force Base, Cape Cod, this June 17-30. All the traditional guardsmen and women will have the chance to train on the new equipment, accomplish all the necessary ancillary training requirements, as well as enjoy a change in scenery from southern Connecticut. The 103rd ACS is scheduled to deploy to Southwest Asia as the primary air control unit in 2002, and members look forward to the challenge of another real world contingency.

With 2000 being the "Year of the Family", the 103rd has many activities planned to include the guard member's family, such as picnics, tours of the base, bring your son or daughter to work day, and other like activities. Their Family Support group is one of the most active in the state, and really makes a positive impact on its members.

CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS

By Col. Anthony Vallombrosa

What is Consideration of Others and how does it affect you? In January of last year, Maj.Gen. Roger C. Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard consolidated guidance in three policy letters dealing with Equal Opportunity / Equal Employment Opportunity, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Consideration of Others. The basic result of this consolidation was the introduction of a single message that focused on taking care of people. "Consideration of Others includes Equal Opportunity, Equal Employment Opportunity, Prevention of Sexual Harassment, and Treating Others with Dignity and Respect."

Consideration of Others is not just a concept to address sexual, racial, or religious harassment - it covers the broad perspective of civility and encompasses harassment, discrimination, prejudice, insensitivity, offensive behavior, verbal abuse, and basic thoughtlessness. The

basic Army policy is that racial, sexual, or religious harassment or discrimination of any kind is not tolerated.

Consideration of Others goes one step beyond policy by establishing a basic value not limited to race, religion, or gender. It is integral to the fundamental characteristics we require of our leaders and is based on common courtesy, decency, and sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others. The accepted definition of Consideration of Others is "Those actions that indicate a sensitivity to, and regard for, the feelings and needs of others and an awareness of the impact of one's own behavior on them; being supportive of, and fair with, others".

This year, Schultz re-emphasized his guidance by encouraging our leaders to embrace the program by setting clear goals and objectives for implementation. The three aspects of the program that summarize Enforcement, Education, and Ownership have already begun. Command emphasis has set the enforcement ball in motion by articulating guidance that violations of the

principles of Consideration of Others will not be tolerated.

The education process started last year with the training of facilitators from the Human Resources / Equal Opportunity Section who prepared and presented training to Equal Opportunity Representatives on the weekend of 4-5 March of this year. These representatives will carry the program back to their units for implementation within the guidelines established.

The third area of ownership will be realized when all of us, as leaders, understand our obligation to foster a positive command climate, eliminate all forms of harassment and discrimination, and develop a culture in which people treat one another with dignity and respect. The entire Consideration of Others Program becomes manifest in trust and cohesion in the unit.

Commanders are challenged to combine the eight key areas of focus that represent Ethical Development, American Military Heritage, Quality Individual Leadership,

Team Building, Equal Opportunity, Gender Issues, Family Concerns, and Health, Safety and Substance Abuse into their unit training programs. In fact, all of us that work for you on a full-time basis are charged with the responsibility to provide opportunities that allow everyone to achieve the highest level of responsibility as their own individual talents and diligence permit.

We will strive to create and maintain an environment that recognizes people as our most important resource, encourages teamwork and constructive working relationships, and employs best management practices that aim for the continuous pursuit of excellence.

The Connecticut National Guard Soldier-Airman Support Center will continue to endorse programs that provide awareness and recognition of people by sponsoring successful special emphasis programs like Black History and Hispanic Heritage Celebrations, Federal Women's Program and Take Your Daughters (and Sons) To Work.

The Soldier-Airman Support Center's *Family Program Office*

Invites you and your family to join us as we visit

WEST POINT, NEW YORK
Saturday, April 29th, 2000

Chartered busses will pick up our guests at various locations throughout Connecticut !

(Pick-up times and locations will vary according to the response this trip receives.)

Our trip will feature a guided tour of West Point with stops at Trophy Point and the Cadet Chapel; time at the Visitor's Center and Gift Shop; the West Point Military History Museum and stops at the Commissary and Post Exchange.

For your convenience, a light breakfast will be served on the bus. You are welcome to bring snacks and beverages if you wish.

Children are most welcome, too!

Please remember...if you wish to purchase anything at the Commissary or Post Exchange, you must have an i.d. card! Also, the commissary requires a valid commissary card!

Need an i.d.? It's a great time to visit the Soldier-Airman Support Center and get one!

Call Kim Hoffman at the Family Program Office, by April 21st, to reserve space for your family on Saturday, April 29th! The Family Program Office can be reached at 1-800-858-2677!

This trip is provided at no cost to the service members of the Connecticut National Guard and their families on behalf of the Soldier-Airman Support Center.

OEM Conquers Y2K with Preparation

By John T. Wiltse
Office of Emergency Management

The dawn of the new Millennium came quietly and peacefully to the Pacific's most western islands in the early morning hours of December 31st. And the tone was set for the rest of the world.

Although the dreaded Year 2000 (Y2K) rollover bug did not materialize in Connecticut or anywhere else in the world, the Connecticut National Guard's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) system was ready with its largest activation in more than 10 years.

"I don't think our state emergency management system has ever been more prepared," commented Gov. John G. Rowland at a late morning news conference on New Year's Day. "Our emergency preparedness has increased tenfold."

The Governor's remarks were the result of months of planning and attention to detail by OEM, the Department of Information Technology (DOIT), and the Connecticut National Guard.

For all who enjoyed a calm and uneventful New Year, the \$110 million event in Connecticut was well worth the resources, according to the Governor.

"Many of our state agencies received upgraded computer systems that will take us well into this century. This has also been a great exercise for our emergency officials," said Rowland. "It is better to be safe than sorry."

Over 400 individuals from 23 separate agencies staffed the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 24 hours a day from December 29 through January 3, 2000.

Coordinating a moderate winter storm normally takes less than 30 staff in the EOC.

Several new agencies, normally not represented at the State EOC, participated in the Y2K activation including the Departments of Banking, Public Utility Control and Corrections and the offices of the State Treasurer and State Comptroller.

"That will be one of the true lasting benefits of Y2K," said John T. Wiltse, OEM director. "We exposed many new people to the state command center and our procedures. Our overall state readiness has certainly improved."

All 37 state agencies monitored internal Y2K issues and reported to the State EOC in person or through external situation reports during the six-day period.

Telephones and radios in OEM's five satellite offices were answered with military precision. Dozens of Connecticut Guard

and militia members provided critical support at the OEM Area Offices maintaining 24-hour contact with local towns and cities. At least three times during the Y2K activation, the Guard and Area Office staffs surveyed all 169 municipalities to confirm they were experiencing no significant Y2K disruptions.

The Guard really came through for us," said Wiltse. "This new partnership between the Guard and Emergency Management is paying big dividends."

In a historic show of discipline and Y2K emphasis, the Governor's Cabinet composed of 23 state commissioners met twice daily at the State Armory to review the status of their agencies.

The focus of the first 48 hours was placed on monitoring the international effects of Y2K. As each time zone rolled over without major incidents - including Russia's nuclear plants - confidence grew within the Connecticut EOC.

Thanks to a modern new computer system in the State EOC, OEM staff were able to review the status of each country's infrastructure through a federal government Y2K website.

Some important information was taken from the experience of other nations. New Zealand and Australia suffered spotty telephone outages due to high volume calling and dial tone testing right after the rollover.

The Connecticut Y2K EOC immediately incorporated warnings to the public about telephone misuse into its public information products and interviews.

"The loss of telephone and 911 service due to unnecessary volume was one of our greatest concerns," said Wiltse. "Thankfully, Connecticut citizens heeded our warnings and SNET experienced only moderate call volume."

About 75 individuals crowded into the State EOC a minute before midnight to watch the traditional ball drop in Times Square. After joining in the countdown and exchanging brief New Year's wishes, the desks of the Department of Public Utility Control, major state utilities, and Civilian Air Patrol quickly swung into action. Everyone had their assignments and information began to flood in by phone, fax, email, and radio.

In just 20 short minutes all of the state's major utilities reported in that all conditions were normal - just in time for the Governor's arrival.

As the Governor walked into the OEM media center to deliver the good news to the State, everyone knew it was going to be a truly happy new year.

The Key to Safety

A Model Six Point POV Safety Program

By Chief Warrant Officer 4
Vincent Rinaldo

State Safety Manager



1. COMMAND EMPHASIS: Positive leadership at all levels is imperative. Leader emphasis on privately owned vehicle (POV) safety must be unrelenting. Our junior officers and noncommissioned officers see their soldiers every drill. They should know where their soldiers go, what they do and then assert positive influence on how, when and where they operate their POVs.

2. DISCIPLINE: Our junior leaders work with their soldiers every drill and know them well. Soldiers sometimes telegraph signals that translate later into accidents. Negative behavior such as traffic of fenses, alcohol abuse, misconduct and poor performance often are indicators of potential POV accident victims. Identify "at risk" soldiers; counsel them; take proactive measures to modify their risky behavior.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT: Use risk management. Identify hazards associated with POV operations; assess the hazards; make decisions to control them; implement controls; and supervise the execution. The Director of Army Safety has prepared a POV Risk management Toolbox for commanders and leaders. This toolbox provides a comprehensive set of tools and controls that have proven successful throughout the Army. The toolbox is available at [HTTP://safety.army.mil/pov/index.html](http://safety.army.mil/pov/index.html). Use it. Make it available to leaders at all levels. This office is in the process of fielding this CD to each unit, but don't wait, send for one today, get one now.

4. STANDARDS: Set high and unmistakable standards. Enforce

them. Follow Army regulatory traffic standards. Be uncompromising on the use of seatbelts and motorcycle safety equipment. Educate soldiers on the risks of speed, fatigue and use of alcohol. Conduct mandatory POV safety inspections and random roadside checks. Emphasize the use of designated drivers for social events.

5. PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES: Provide alternatives for soldiers to driving POVs. Schedule activities at the training site, armory or annual training site. Keep recreation areas/centers and other places soldiers use off-duty open later. These same measures can also provide alternatives to alcohol use. Look for transportation alternatives as well. Promote use of alternate transportation methods to POV use. Prominently display public transportation schedules. Where possible, use morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) services to provide buses or vans to transport soldiers to places they go when off duty. Arrange reduced hotel rates in nearby communities to encourage soldiers to remain overnight on weekends and stay off the highways later at night.

6. COMMANDER'S ASSESSMENT: Following every fatal and serious injury involving POV accidents, commanders will conduct an assessment of the accident with the involved soldier's chain of command. Determine what happened, why it happened and how it could have been prevented. Implement corrective and preventative measures. Publicize lessons learned. Keep your soldiers and airmen safe.

Supporting the Soldier, Airman and Family

By: Capt. Scott Wilson

C TARNG Public Affairs Office

2000 – a year full of hope, possibility and new beginnings. It is a year celebrated by the National Guard Bureau as the Year of the Family. Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's Adjutant General, leveraged the opportunity offered by the Bureau's focus to create the Connecticut SASC, a full-service facility promoting family, soldier, and airman support and readiness by centralizing several previously separate functions.

In the fall of 1999, the Connecticut Guard's Human Resources Office (HRO), Family Support Organization and chaplain services joined forces at 251 Maxim Road (Brainard Airport) next to the 143rd Area Support Group Headquarters. Since that union, Cugno's vision has become reality, as all Connecticut National Guard soldiers, airmen, families, and full-time retirees can now find fulfillment for a full-spectrum of support needs under one roof. The location is very accessible to all in need, with convenient access from I-91 and I-84. Twenty-four hour voicemail via the SASC's toll-free line (888-548-SASC) and email augment an already active schedule. The center is open to walk-in inquiries from 7:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and is also open the weekend of the Headquarters State Area Command drill and the Saturday following that drill every month. Identification card services are also offered during these times, although making a phone appointment for them is recommended.

"The SASC is a portal for the fulfillment of all soldier, airman, family, and full-time retiree needs," said Col. Anthony Vallombroso, who leads the SASC. The SASC holds a full complement of human resources, family support, EEO, and religious support capabilities, and can direct service members to the MILPO (Military Personnel Office) if that is

where they need to go for help.

The SASC's HRO activities include classification, staffing, employee relations, employee development, employee assistance, personnel data systems, EEO, Active Guard-Reserve (AGR) tour of office, and Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) Liaison.

The SASC's Family Support Organization, led by Mrs. Kim Hoffman, activities include education on family benefits, emergency assistance, unit family assistance teams/support group support, Morale-Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities, and various social activities and outings.

The center also offers access to substance abuse counseling, suicide prevention services, resume assistance, and computer access to job postings.

"We have future plans to web-enable some of our services by offering on-line career management assistance and benefits information. Our web site containing information about SASC services should be available by this summer," Vallombroso added.

The SASC also mobilizes its capabilities to assist families when they may need it most: during deployments. "We are a force multiplier in this aspect," said Vallombroso. The center enables communication between families and the Guard while service members are deployed, which allows soldiers and airmen to focus on their mission and its successful completion unencumbered by the worry that their families might be in need of assistance.

Current highlight activities conducted by the SASC include trips to area commissaries and exchanges to show family members their accessibility and the cost savings available there. They also include tax preparation assistance, a trip to West Point in late April, the Month of the Military

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE SASC

Full-Time Career Counseling	Policy and Procedure Guidance
EEO Guidance and Enforcement	Career Transition Assistance Program
Thrift Savings Plan	Computer Based Training
Diversity Programs	Tax Preparation Seminar
Stress Reduction Training	Social Security Seminar
Veterans Administration Benefits Seminar	Education Services Seminar
TRICARE Briefing	Financial Planning Workshop
Family Mobilization Briefing	Sexual Harassment Prevention
Training	
Retirement Planning Workshop	Family Team Building
Annual Leave Planning and Utilization	CR/First Aid Training
College Financial Aid Seminar	Health Benefits Seminar
Mid-Career Planning	Commissary/Exchange Orientation
ITT - Travel, Ticket, Tour Information	Self and Others Seminar
Workplace Violence Seminar	Better Baby Sitting Course

Spouse and rose bouquet purchase program in May, a youth summer camp at Camp Rowland, and space-available travel/lodging education and assistance.

The SASC EEO section led by Chief Warrant Officer Tony Uva, coordinates special emphasis programs throughout the year, including the Federal Women's Program, Hispanic Heritage celebration, Black History month, and the Take Your Child to Work program.

The SASC will communicate its upcoming activities and support facilities information through the use of periodic calendars of events, which will be distributed to all Guard members, families and retirees as well as bulletin boards/information display stands at all Guard armories.

When asked about recent success stories, Vallombroso describes, "...several times when we have helped families in need. We coordinated donations of leave to help augment an individual member's sick leave after a tragic accident. We gathered donations to help cover bills to augment families in dire need. We helped support families with limited resources so they could provide their children with Christmas gifts.

But not all the success is that visible to the public – the success stories that come from the SASC's ability to help individuals break free from the bonds of substance abuse and financial indebtedness and gain control of their

lives are no less noteworthy."

The SASC, in and of itself, is a success story. By combining several organizations into a one-stop shop for families, full-time retirees and members, the Connecticut Guard created a centrally focused organization that can help everyone.

"It is great to see the realization of a plan that really supports those who need it the most, when they need it the most," Maj. Juan Rivera, a member of the Family Support Organization staff. "Even something so simple as the day-to-day ability to offer information and answers to questions without a lot of run-around can make a huge difference in the full military service experience for members, families, and retirees."

Vallombroso agrees. "The SASC, while still in its infancy, is growing in its ability to help our Guard family...but it needs to grow more. We are open to everyone's input on how we can better serve them. We want them to know that their input counts, and that we can help them."

A way to provide this input is to volunteer with the Connecticut Guard's Family Program Volunteer Network. "Whether you have a few hours a week or a few hours a month, we would love to have your help," said Hoffman. Trained volunteers can receive mileage and childcare reimbursement, and may have the opportunity to travel to national

workshops. Interested parties can contact the SASC to sign up.



RETIREE'S COLUMN

In order to get a better insight on you, the retirees that read this column I've decided that a questionnaire might better provide information for future articles. I'll do my best to make it relatively painless to complete.

RETIREE QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1 All military retirees should be receiving "ARMY ECHOES," the bulletin for the army retiree. Are you currently receiving "ARMY ECHOES"?
YES _____ NO _____
- 2 Was your entire career spent as a member of the National Guard?
YES _____ NO _____
- 3 If you had active duty time as a member of another branch of service please indicate below.
ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE MARINES
COAST GUARD
- 4 Please show the number of years served in the National Guard and if applicable, the number of years service on active duty with the Guard or any other branch of service.
N ATIONAL GUARD _____ ACTIVE DUTY _____
- 5 What year did you first join the National Guard and if applicable where did you receive basic training?
YEAR _____ BASIC TRAINING SITE _____
- 6 There have been members of the Guard who have been Enlisted, Warrant Officers and Commissioned Officers during their careers. Please state the highest grade obtained during your Guard career.
ENLISTED _____ WARRANT OFFICER _____
COMMISSIONED OFFICER _____
- 7 During your Guard career please indicate your status and years.
M D AY _____ FULL TIME (TECH) _____ AGR _____.
- 7 As a member of the guard did you ever do any OCONUS training?
OCONUS TRAINING SITES

- 8 Were you or your unit ever mobilized for overseas deployment? If yes, where?
LOCATION _____ DATE _____
TIME SERVED _____
- 9 As most of us know the pay and benefits of Guard service have increased dramatically throughout the years. During your career how important was pay to you?
VERY IMORTANT _____ HELPED SOMEWHAT _____
NOT IMPORTANT _____
10. For years there have been rumors around that some Guardsmen's wives never knew their husbands were paid for weekend drills.
TRUE _____ FALSE _____
(If the answer is true do you have any interesting stories you might share for a future article.)
- 11 We all know that a fine is a tax for doing something wrong, and a tax is a fine for doing well. Is your retirement check subject to your state income tax?
YES _____ NO _____ STATE OF RESIDENCE _____
12. Most retirees have remained in Connecticut while some have moved to other states, and others have the best of both worlds returning home during the summer. If health, finances, family etc. were not a factor would you?
A. REMAIN IN CT _____ B. MOVE TO _____
C. LIVE IN _____ & return to CT part yearly.
13. How many years after retirement from the Guard did you have to wait for age 60? ____.
14. How many years after retirement did you continue to work your civilian job?

15. Is there any truth to the saying "If you give a retiree a fish he'll eat for a day, and if you teach him to fish he'll sit in a boat and drink beer all day?"
YES _____ NO _____

16. Do you take advantage of any military facilities that may be in your area. (For example: PX, COMMISSARY, CLUBS, ETC.)
YES _____ NO _____.
If yes, list the ones you use:

17. Would you be interested in contacting any former friends from your active duty (Guard) days? YES _____ NO _____
18. Would you be interested in a Retirees data base being established with home addresses and contact numbers and/or email addresses?
YES _____ NO _____
19. Would you be happy to have your information included on this data base?
YES _____ NO _____
20. One of the benefits of being a veteran in Connecticut is the right to have Military Funeral with a National Guard hosted firing squad. Were you and your family aware of this benefit?
YES _____ NO _____
21. Do you have a computer and / or have access to e-mail?
YES _____ NO _____
22. Part of the reason for the difficulty in keeping in touch with Retirees is that many of us have moved since our Guard days. How many times have you moved since retirement?
NONE _____ OR _____ TIMES.
23. Are you aware that for years a Retiree's Picnic has been held at the National Guard training site (currently called Camp Rowland) in Niantic, Conn.?
YES _____ NO _____.
24. Last year's picnic had over 300 attendees. It is held on the Wednesday following Governor's Family Day (generally in late August or early September). Would you plan to attend?
YES _____ NO _____.
25. Referring to question #23, were you aware that the Guard hosts an Open House (Governors Family Day) every summer. The event is open to all. (More on this event will follow in later editions.)
YES _____ NO _____.
26. As a Retiree would you be willing to share any stories about your Military Service that we may be able to publish in future articles?
YES _____ NO _____.
27. If you are aware of any Retiree who should be receiving this publication but is not at present, please supply his name and address. I would be happy to add him or her to our mailing list.
Name _____
Street _____
Town _____ States _____
e-mail address _____
28. If you choose to fill out the questionnaire, your name and address would be appreciated.
Name _____
Street _____
Town _____ States _____
email address _____

I've recently received some information from Aksel E Hansen, Jr. (CSM RET) who is the Chairman of the Connecticut National Guard Retiree's of Florida (CNGROF) concerning some pending legislation in Congress.

HR2966 If passed this law would give retirees after the age of 65 the option to enroll in Tricare or the Federal Employees Health and Benefits Program (FEHBP). Depending upon enlistment date the government would pay between 72% -100%.
HR113 and HR205 would bring FEHBP (mentioned above) to older retirees.
Write to your Congressman to get movement on these bills

I certainly would appreciate it if you would take the time to complete this questionnaire. The answers could be mailed directly to me or care of this publication.
Robert M Kelly
32 Pondsides Lane
Rocky Hill, Ct 06067

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65th PCH

and broadcast stories and setting up briefings for the media and VIPs.

Deploying is a new experience for Spc. Jeff Austin, a fiber optics technician from Queens, NY, who drives more than 100 miles each way to drill as a photojournalist with his unit in Hartford.

"I'm excited and nervous at the same time," Austin said, reflecting the myriad of emotions typical of a deploying service member. "I'm motivated to do a good job, however, I'm not sure exactly what to



Sgt. Maj. Dominic DiNatale and Family

expect. It's a little stressful, but my family has been very supportive."

Austin's fellow Connecticut journalist Sgt. Joseph DeCaro, a full-time student from Stratford, has been on several deployments, including the Persian Gulf War.

"It's scaled down, but similar in spirit (to the Gulf War)... the numbers are smaller," DeCaro said. Although he has an end date for this deployment, there's a bit of irony in the length of the mission. "I was in the Gulf for six months, so this is already shaping up as a longer deployment. So, knowing the end date of this trip is not as comforting as one might think," DeCaro said.

Putting a career on hold for any nine months is not easy. Putting two careers on hold, and separating from a family are all the more difficult. But, as a Waterbury police officer, a self-employed attorney, and a husband and father, that's the situation McGrew faces in this deployment.

"It's extremely difficult," McGrew said. "The P.D. has been extremely supportive. I couldn't ask for a better employer. It's difficult at best, to put the law practice on hold. I've had to have other attorneys take up cases."

But, there was no question that deploying on this mission was necessary.

"After receiving 20 years of training, when they call on you to go to a real world mission, you can't say 'No!' Deploying is the right thing to do. But, the roughest part will be separation from the family - three teenagers and a 10-year old. Without my wife's support, it would be impossible," McGrew said.

Deploying is equally as difficult for the family members.

"I'm just not thinking about it," Kristine McGrew said, while waiting for her husband's plane to take off. "All the time Sherman's been a policeman, I've gotten through it by not thinking about it. So,

that's what I'm doing now."

The 65th prepared for deployment through extensive training, most of which was conducted at Devens, Massachusetts.

"In the past three weeks, I've received some of the best training in my 17-year military career," said Capt. Robert Bartholomew, of Somers, who works full time as a trainer for Hamilton Standard. "I'm greatly looking forward to this new door I'm going through."

"The training was great," Austin said, "The Army provided instructors who were very informative and fun."

Members of Readiness Group Devens had the assignment of making sure the unit was ready. That assignment was completed, according to the acting commanding officer of the 65th.

"I am pleased to announce that the 65th Press Camp Headquarters is trained and ready for the mission. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those who helped us deploy," said Maj. Michael Pacheco, of Massachusetts, at a going-away ceremony held inside the operations building of the 143rd Airlift Wing, R.I. Air National Guard.



Sgt. Joseph DeCaro and Maj. Sherman McGrew accept a state of Connecticut flag from Col. Ronald Renski during the departure ceremony at Quonset Point.

Approximately 200 friends, family members and fellow service members packed an auditorium and adjoining hallways to wish their best for the unit. Officials from each of the three states made special presentations, including state flags and commanders' coins.

At the ceremony, Col. Ronald Renski, Plans Operations Training and Military Support officer for the Connecticut Army National Guard, represented Adjutant General of the State of Connecticut, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, who was attending an event with Gov. Rowland in Hartford. Renski presented a state flag to McGrew and DeCaro, so they can display it in Bosnia.

"It's a very difficult mission, and it's a sacrifice that I recognize and my colleagues in the U.S. Senate recognize. This represents the oneness of the U.S. military. The active components can't do this without the Guard and Reserve. It also reminds us that we have a citizen-military."

Senator Jack Reed, RI

"On behalf of Maj. Gen. Cugno, Gov. Rowland, all members of the Connecticut National Guard, and all of the people of Connecticut, we wish you the absolute best. To the families, I want to thank you. This is a sacrifice for you, as well," Renski said. "Peacekeeping is a must. It is the way we'll deploy in the future."

One of the speakers quite familiar with the



Deploying members of the 65th PCH walk through the "Gauntlet of Honor" on their way to the plane

U.S. mission in Bosnia offered his perspective, having been to the country three times, including prior to the start of the introduction of U.S. peacekeepers.

"It's a very difficult mission, and it's a sacrifice that I recognize and my colleagues in the U.S. Senate recognize," said Sen. Jack Reed, of R.I. "This represents the oneness of the U.S. military. The active components can't do this without the Guard and Reserve. It also reminds us that we



Capt. Robert Bartholomew

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118th

The 118th ASMB, part of the 143rd Area Support Group (ASG), is headquartered in New Haven, CT. Normally deployed to a corps rear area on the battlefield, the unit has the capability of accepting and treating approximately 160 casualties, all of which must be of a seventy-two hour "return to duty" status (if they are not, they are transported further to the rear to Combat Army Surgical Hospitals for treatment). The HSC consists of one ambulatory and one treatment platoon.

There are only a few ASMBs in the Army's arsenal; as such, the 118th must maintain a constant state of readiness



Members of the 118th Medical Battalion get hit by a simulated gas attack during recent training at Stone's Ranch Military Reservation.

so that it can accomplish its casualty treatment and transport mission in any area of the world at any time. The training given at Stone's Ranch this fall weekend is a part of that readiness maintenance; further, it assists the unit in its preparation for a unique annual training assignment. In August 2000, the 118th will support a 5,000-soldier JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center) preparation exercise at Ft. Drum, N.Y., testing its skills in a practical mission.

By the end of the training, each soldier of HSC 118th ASMB learned perhaps the most important lesson of all - no matter what their job, they are all soldiers, and they need to master the enabling soldier